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MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1819

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY ISSUES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Col B. Kalinin, senior instructor, Agitation and Propaganda Department, Air Force Political Administration: "Has A Step Forward Been Taken?"]

[Text] It is pleasant to talk with Major A. Doronin, the secretary of a training air regiment party organization. He becomes more and more animated telling about the efforts of his party committee to improve ideological and political educational work. Questions of the ideological tempering of communists and all personnel are constantly at the center of attention of the party committee. After the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum a special session of the party committee was conducted, the state of ideological work in the unit was discussed, and measures to improve it in the spirit of present requirements were outlined.

The secretary has a deputy for ideological work who directly leads the activities of the agitational-propaganda group, which includes 14 communists from among the unit's leaders. Doronin says that he thinks this is too few, and that in the future it is planned to increase the number of propagandists. "But is it really a matter of quantity?" he adds immediately. "It is most important that the group be active, and that its propaganda be distinguished by its highly scientific level, activeness and aggressiveness." How can one not agree with these arguments?! It only remains to be seen that the activities of the agitational-propaganda group truly do respond to present-day requirements.

But here the conversation isn't satisfactory. The secretary has difficulty recounting how many lectures for officers and students have been given this year by external propagandists, on what themes, and which speakers were the most active and popular among the soldiers. Captain A. Tsarakov, the regimental propagandist, comes to his aid. He names one or two communists, but can't remember the topics of their lectures. He knows that seven people were to speak during the first half of the year and another seven during the second half. It is clear from this information that here the auditorium does not see speakers often. And what do they speak about?

It also turned out to be difficult to familiarize myself with the lecture materials. Not all have been retained. And from the five which could be found it was obvious that the quality of the lectures could have been better. They were superficial in their development of issues, had a scholarly and didactic tone, were replete with truisms, and had almost no relationship to the life of the military collective. And another thing which was easy to observe was the similarity of the lectures. It was as if they were all written by the same person. And that is how it turned out. Captain Tsarakov, the unit's propagandist, wrote the entire texts of the lectures by external speakers, officers I. Korotich, N. Semenov and Yu. Dogovich, and they merely "uttered" the materials. One wonders in this case who really fulfilled the instructions of the party committee.

"They are all very busy with their duties," explained the secretary.

It turns out that during an entire year a communist cannot find time to prepare a single lecture. A single comrade is fulfilling the party committee's resolution for all, resulting in a dismal monotony in the lectures. And where is the intense activity of the party organ to improve propaganda lectures? Where is the constant (to use the claim of the secretary himself) attention to the ideological activity of each communist? They are just words. Here they did not even get around to reviewing the lecture theme approved in the beginning of the year, in connection with the subsequent, well-known major events in the life of the country, the aggravated international situation, and the numerous problems which arose in the life of the unit itself. What then is the value of the phrases about "improving" and "increasing attention," which were repeated by the party committee secretary?

One can listen to some comrade and hear so many good words about the need to improve ideological and mass political work, and he may cite by heart many provisions of party documents on the subject, but his own activities show the same old stagnation and inertness.

I will depart for a while from the example with which I began. At this time, while reports and elections are in progress in the party organizations of units and military educational institutions, special attention must, of course, be devoted to implementing the directives of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum on renewing, enriching and improving the relevance of the contents of ideological-educational work and its forms and methods. Unfortunately, however, reports and lectures simply make reference to these tasks and regulations. But as concerns their actual implementation, such reports contain indefinite, although outwardly "impressive" expressions: We, they say, have "increased our attention," "heightened the role," or "done a lot." But what have they done specifically in each specific area? That is, it is necessary to ask yourself the right questions clearly and directly, and just as clearly and directly answer them. Then the real state of affairs will be apparant. Generalities merely create the appearance of action.

So it turned out in this case when we studied the work accomplished to implement the demands of the party for ideological activities in the regiment

where Major Doronin is party committee secretary. This unit is the training regiment of the Voroshilovgrad Higher Military Aviation School for Navigators imeni Proletariat Donbassa. I make this clear for a special reason. Schools educate future officers, many of whom will become leaders and teachers. Consequently they must literally become imbued with an innovative approach to communist education, since they themselves are called upon to be its active bearers. They must now impart skills for actively communicating with people, teach how to merge the process of training and moral-political education, and arm students with the art of convincingly and skillfully propagandizing communist ideas and the socialist way of life.

If students are accustomed to this in a timely manner it will help avoid future incidents in which a young officer is bureaucratic in conducting talks and political activities, or in which, when he is instructed to make a presentation to the troops, he replies: "My business is flying." Unfortunately, the student cannot take as a model every example of his senior comrades in their regard for political work. Of course, not everyone is gifted to become a fiery tribune or fervent orator, but a leader of any rank must be able to speak clearly before people. Unfortunately, the school's political department has slackened its attention to these problems and has reduced its requirements upon the party organizations. Here lectures of members of the agitational and propaganda group are both rare and poor, drawn from an unfamiliar concept, and performed in any old way. And can words which do not come from one's own heart influence the hearts of one's listeners? Of course not.

In general I would say that the state of mind, enthusiasm and creative fervor of people working in such a sensitive and difficult sphere as ideology means a great deal. And I understand why the political department and party committees of another school, the Kharkhov Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni dvazhdi Geroy Sovetskovo Soyuza S. I. Gritsevts concentrates on arousing such feelings in propagandists and forming among them an elevated (and this implies responsible!) regard for political and technological education. This collective was not mentioned without reason. It is close in proximity and experience to the Voroshilovgrad school; as they say, it is not necessary to go far.

Take this training aviation regiment. The circumstances are practically identical. Only the approach to political-ideological education is different. And it begins, one can say, with the frame of mind of the propagandists.

I recall our talks with Major A. Poboyko, deputy secretary of the party committee for ideological matters.

"We in the party committee have discussed literally every aspect of the school's work, and asked ourselves specifically what can be done to achieve the changes required today," he said, and behind his words one felt a fervent enthusiasm toward his work and a lively mind.

"Take counter-propaganda work," he continued. "Some people brush this topic aside, saying that we have nothing to do with a foreign audience. But did the June plenum orient counter-propaganda activities only on such an audience?"

And Anatoliy Vasil'yevich beings to talk fervently about how members of the party committee and the agitational and propaganda group exchanged opinions about setting up such work, and talked about the need to organize without delay lectures among students' and soldiers' collectives concerning the latest political falsifications of imperialist propaganda, and effectively comment on the events of international life. Moreover, one can see subjects for counterpropaganda work in manifestations of narrow-mindedness, materialism, consumer orientation toward life, and the like. The atmosphere itself of an interested, enthusiastic discussion of tasks stemming from the most important decisions of the party indicates the responsibility of these people and their creativity.

In this instance (in contrast to the co-workers of Major Doronin) the discussion of practical problems was followed by deeds. Talks by propagandists on the news of the day are a common, daily occurrence here. This responsiveness does not mean that lowering of quality is permitted. The party committee is concerned about the theoretical and methodological training of propagandists, and monitors how substantive, conclusive and interesting lectures and discussions are to the audience. An effective reference and information center helps in the preparation of effective, high-quality products. The methodology of public presentations is discussed at meetings of agitational and propaganda groups.

Considering related collectives, one can talk about the no less creative approach to mass political work found in the training regiment of the Syzran' Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni 60-letiya SSSR. For example, the party committee headed by Major V. Volkov has conducted a special examination of the question of the work of agitators and propagandists at the airfield during flights; has worked out specific recommendations on the forms and nature of oral presentations and the effective use of technical means of propaganda, wall news media, and visual means of agitation; and has discussed how to improve the educational role of socialist competition. And I must say directly that political support to flights has markedly improved. A system of measures to facilitate teaching young officers to be instructors has been equally well thought out.

Specificity--that is what is still lacking here and there. What has been done to the present time to implement the party's requirements for ideological work in each of its aspects--propaganda lectures, Marxist-Leninist training of officers, and the organization of political activities in the company and unit club, on the training fields, among the families of service members, etc? What still needs to be done? Obviously, this is how issues must be posed in seeking to achieve specific results in our difficult and honorable work.

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY LIFE: SELECTIONS, REPORTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Polyakov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Central Group of Forces: "What Slackness Leads To"]

[Text] Making his report, Lt V. Shchetinin raised his eyes several times to the boards containing excerpts from party documents and the CPSU Rules, but he decided not to cite them. And, I think, it was by design. Instead he himself asserted in the report:

"We have lost much ground recently." Not all of us value the unity of word and deed; not all are working to their full ability."

Not all. That is true. But there are communists who cannot be reproached. If you observe the everyday work of Capt A. Sobol', a company commander, you must admire his selfless and all-round devotion to duty. His punctuality in completing training plans and requirements of regulations, his clear and well thought-out orders, his high exactingness toward himself and his self-discipline and smart appearance serve as an example to the officers, sergeants and soldiers in the company.

Sr Lt V. Amosov, secretary of the company party organization, is a match for him. He does not divide concerns into his own and other people's. They all concern him. He comes to the aid of anyone who is in difficulty.

Recently Sr Lt P. Golub was assigned to a higher duty position. He is warmly remembered in the collective as a former deputy company commander for technical matters. They remember how concerned he was for the common cause, and how keenly he felt any failures in the subunit. Young operator-mechanics joined the company. Golub talked with each in detail and learned their strong and weak points. He invited all of them to become involved in the technical study group, and one might imagine the cost to him after a difficult day to again and again discuss all manner of puzzling technical tasks and work out norms with the driver-mechanics. But he did not remain just a "technical specialist." He was always able to guide and advise soldiers who were in difficult personal situations.

Just the same the speaker was right when he said that the work of the battalion party organization was not sufficiently purposeful, and that not all communists were fulfilling their duties as they should. It is just too bad that such an admission is made at the election meeting and not when it would have been possible to correct the situation and influence the results of the training year.

"In general we were slack in our work," sighed one of the communists during a break.

There is a concept called fighting spirit in party work. It is closely linked with energetic leadership of all activities of the party collective and with high exactingness toward each communist. Here many things were allowed to drift and escaped the attention of the party bureau. This included such questions as the vanguard role and personal example of party members. A passive sort of logic was in effect: The party collective does have such people as Sobol', Amosov, Golub and others, and that is good. But there were also others whose work lacked intensity and who were undisciplined. And it must be said frankly that they did not feel the strict demands of the party. This can be seen easily by merely looking into this fact.

In the spring inspection the battalion was first in the regiment. But only 5 of 19 communists fulfilled their socialist obligations. And what happened? The battalion party bureau did not conduct a general discussion of the question of low exactingness of communists towards themselves. Nor did the party committee sound the alarm. After all, the subunit was better than the others. This sort of "obscuration" of one fact by another is not uncommon. If a collective is first among others, no demands are placed upon it. But, even first place may not be all that high. Strict and objective analysis is always necessary, and the assessment should not be based on the fact that the collective is said to be "best of a group." There can be only one approach: how our work and its results stack up against today's demands for self-discipline and discipline, thorough and effective education and style of party work, and combat readiness.

An inability constantly to meet high overall party requirements and the level of organization of combat training and achievement of end results formulated in corresponding military directives leads to slackening of effort and indifference, and tells on the level of mutual exactingness and style of party work.

And it is not surprising, for example, that questions concerning the vanguard role of communists and their contribution to strengthening discipline are discussed in this way in the battalion party organization. After Lt I. Chabanyuk discussed his work in a few words at the party bureau session, he was asked:

"How do you assess the state of discipline in the platoon?"

"It is normal," he replied. There have been no incidents.

"What prevents you from improving discipline?"

"The sergeants don't work much."

Then Communist Sr Lt Yu. Tulin spoke and recommended that the sergeants be called to account by the komсомol. After this "discussion" the party bureau resolved to cite Communist Chabanyuk for insufficient attention to his sergeants. None of the party bureau members studied all the details of the work of the communist toward strengthening discipline and no one tried to give him truly practical advice. In the future no one took interest in whether hearing the communist at the party bureau had brought any results, and what those results may have been.

"We excused many things in each other," admitted Lt Col A. Vassel'chenko, the battalion commander, at the party electoral meeting. "And when exactingness was demanded, it came down the chain of command mostly, and the voice of the party organization sounded hollow. Many communists allowed themselves to become slack."

These instances of slackness at times simply were not noticed, which also indicates an inability to see "subjects" for criticism and party intervention. And this, of course, leads to the stagnant "moral climate" which is harmful.

Company Commander Sr Lt V. Chubarov is not doing well. He himself has lacked discipline. But seemingly no one is concerned about many other things which impede the communist. He, shall we say, doesn't like to trouble himself with preparing for exercises, and sometimes delegates to others things which he should do himself. For example, his company went to the tank firing range. Chubarov entrusted training at the main training site to a platoon commander, while he himself went to a less important area. And this has happened repeatedly.

Or take this example. Lt V. Shchetinin, an acting company commander, took his subunit to the training center. There he was supposed to report to the senior commander, send people for rations and join the intense rhythm of combat training. When the battalion commander decided to visit the company several days later, he could not find it for a long time. Finally, away from the encampment in a forest clearing he discovered the company tent and at the fire a long unshaven Warrant Officer S. Grigorchuk. The soldiers, by the way, also looked unkept. They were basically idle, and Lt Shchetinin had supposedly gone to the regiment headquarters on an urgent matter. It turned out that the lieutenant had ordered the tents pitched away from the encampment and that foodstuffs be obtained and prepared at the campfire simply to escape control and the strict schedule.

And the same Shchetinin had often stated from the rostrum that a communist must take on a heavier burden and struggle against oversimplification in combat training.

Numerous such examples could be mentioned.

One cannot help but be concerned about the fact that in the party organization people mostly just talk about attaining the currently required level of work, but the work itself is not being reorganized in the spirit of present party requirements.

Here is yet another confirmation of this. Apparently trying to strengthen a weak part of his report and talk more impressively about the growth in the communists' ideological and theoretical level and their activeness in political work, the speaker stated:

"This can be seen from the poster."

But his pointer hand dropped on the spot. The sheet of paper indicated names of communists. Opposite them were listed the newspapers and journals to which they subscribed. The report contained no true analysis of how the collective is implementing directives to renew, enrich and update the contents, forms and methods of ideological educational work and improve the political consciousness and activeness of communists and all military personnel.

Thus the newly elected membership of the party bureau has the task of working thoroughly to form an atmosphere of high exactingness of communists toward themselves and each other. This is one of the important conditions for improving the fighting spirit of the party organization and strengthening its influence on all aspects of the life and training of the military collective.

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

MORAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Oct 83 p 3

Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent Lt Col V. Kir'yazov: "That Rash Step"

Text "Well, so much for leave," thought Sr Lt Andrey Strel'tsov absent-mindedly, as about something distant and of little consequence. Again his thoughts turned to his forthcoming meeting with his fellow soldiers, the anticipation of which had, in recent days, caused unconscious alarm.

Strel'tsov and his family were returning to their garrison, his place of service. They traveled silently. Only occasionally he and his wife exchanged simple phrases. Even fidgety Vasilek sat quietly, not pestering with his endless "Why?" and "How come?". Apparently his child's sixth sense told him that something was not right with Father.

And something really wasn't right with the Strel'tsov's. What it was namely he himself had not completely figured out. Climbing up to the top bunk, he tried again to analyze what had happened and realize why this recent incident had begun to occupy all his thoughts.

One and a half months ago he had refused promotion. This amazed his commander and comrades. But he felt that he had acted correctly. His father, also a career military man, had also once refused the opportunity for advancement. True, those were other circumstances. But just the same. There was something in common and similar in their natures and actions. And he could be proud of that. His father, a front-line soldier, officer and communist was an example in everything to Sr Lt Strel'tsov.

"It would be good to know what Father would say about this if he were alive," thought Strel'tsov. And his thoughts again returned to the recent events.

Capt G. Ledinskiy was Sr Lt Strel'tsov's best friend in the regiment. Their common natures, habits and interests linked them. Their service also benefitted from their friendship. Both the company commanded by Capt Ledinskiy and the platoon commanded by Sr Lt Strel'tsov were among the best.

But for some time everything had begun to change for the worst. Ledinskiy, feeling that his services were not appreciated, slackened his efforts in training and service and neglected his educational work with people. Step by step the standing of his company began to decline. No matter how much Strel'tsov tried to help his friend and change his mind, things did not change for the better. As a result, Ledinskiy was removed from the position of company commander and transferred to another duty.

An energetic, initiative-filled officer was needed who could quickly eliminate the problems in the subunit and restore its former reputation. Three officers in the unit were recommended for the position of company commander. The unit commander selected Strel'tsov--a strong-willed, demanding, well prepared officer who could work with people.

It was necessary to begin immediately and become utterly absorbed in work. But Strel'tsov had his own plans. The time of his scheduled leave was approaching. He understood that circumstances demanded that he switch it to a later date. But Strel'tsov was already in the frame of mind for leave, and he had promised his mother that he would go with her and his family to the regiment once commanded by his father, Hero of the Soviet Union Vasilii Andreyevich Strel'tsov, which had invited them to attend the Victory Holiday.

Strel'tsov wrote his leave request.

"Understand that you are now needed here, in the unit," headquarters told him. "We are giving you a company command. You must choose--either leave or promotion."

"Well," Strel'tsov pronounced slowly. "I choose leave."

The commander's gaze troubled him for an instant. It held an unstated reproach. But, before his eyes stood his father--firm, strong, able to defend his principles to the end.

Returning from the headquarters, Strel'tsov thought: "Let them not think that my earlier agreement was dictated by the temptation to rise up the career ladder. I will stay in the platoon. A Strel'tsov has never sought advantage for himself."

Just the same, at the time he was far from sure that he had acted wisely and for good reason. But he did not find it within himself to change his decision.

The first days of his leave took his mind away from this event, and he thought that all the agitation and emotions were now behind. And then they began to gather prior to departing for the unit which his father had commanded. At first he was excited, looking forward to meeting people who had known and remembered him as a boy. What would he say about himself and his service? The light of his father's glory and good name also fell on him, and in this light everything connected with his refusing the position did not seem so insignificant as it had earlier. He felt as though he had inadvertently cast

a shadow on his father and had not lived up to his hopes, by showing disrespect to the cause to which his father had dedicated his entire life, and had bequeathed to his son. He was not yet fully conscious of this feeling, but it was seizing him and causing his heart to beat anxiously.

Strel'tsov changed his initial plan and decided not to take his wife and son on the trip. He could not explain this decision; it was not subject to explanation. Thankfully his wife understood his condition.

He and his mother traveled to the regiment. The whole way Strel'tsov was quiet and reflective.

"What's the matter, son," his mother kept trying to find out.

He forced a smile, quieted her and again returned to his thoughts. But when they arrived and had already reached the regimental check point, he suddenly stopped:

"I'm sorry, mama, but I'm not ready to meet Father's fellow soldiers. You go alone."

His mother said nothing, just sighed and headed toward the door of the check point with misty eyes.

Strel'tsov returned to the hotel and lay down on the bed. Before his eyes again stood his father. He remembered his recounting the story about how one day, at the front, he had written his request.

The division commander received Sr Sgt Vasilii Strel'tsov in the hut in which he was billeted. Not having his subordinate report formally, the general shook his hand and invited him to the table. Immediately a dried-up old man entered the room. He had a misted over earthenware pot of sour clotted milk and two mugs. Vasilii understood. The division commander had not chosen this homelike environment without reason. His prepared phrases suddenly flew out of his head. He silently took from his pocket the request which the regiment commander had given him permission to write directly to the division commander, and placed it on the table, hoping that the general would read it immediately and himself begin talking about business.

Strel'tsov had written that he declined to attend military school at that time. Heavy fighting was in progress, and his departure from the front was simply impossible.

The division commander poured the milk and moved the request closer to Strel'tsov.

"Drink, Sr Sgt Strel'tsov, don't be shy," he said. "And I will speak. I will ask you not to speak now, since I understand your position and I must tell you mine in 10 minutes. Unfortunately, that is all the time I have." The general looked in a friendly manner at Strel'tsov and smiled. "Don't you

think that I also want to keep a Hero of the Soviet Union in the division? Very much. Replacements are coming. By whose example shall the new troops be trained? Who should be entrusted with that important matter? Of course, you should, a hero.

The general poured Strel'tsov a mug of milk.

"However, heroes are needed not only in our division. Now you can train a crew, or, say, a platoon well. But it is necessary that in time you be able to train regiments. And not just any way, but the right way, the military way. Yes, we must finish the enemy off, and we will finish him off. But it is also time to think of the future of our army. The road for the most deserving is to military school. I hate to part with you like you were torn from my heart. But I can make no other decision."

The general rose and walked to the window. Strel'tsov inconspicuously put the request in his pocket.

"Thank you, son, for understanding the whole picture," said the division commander without turning around. "And let me give you some advice: hurry through school, take accelerated courses. When you finish, request to be assigned with me. I will give you a battery." He approached Strel'tsov. "And now I embrace you. Thank you for your service! Especially beyond the Dnepr. How many times did you cross it under fire? Seventeen? I myself will tell the raw troops about you."

Sr Sgt Strel'tsov left for school and two weeks later the division commander was killed in battle. Vasilii found out about it much later and couldn't, did not want, to believe that his beloved commander had died. All the rest of his life it seemed that he lived in expectation of meeting the general. He commanded a battalion and a regiment, no longer an artillery but now a missile regiment. But he never stopped feeling that the division commander was observing him with his interested and exacting gaze. He admitted several times that he measures his every important decision and his every action against the moral criteria by which the division commander had lived and served.

For regimental commander, Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel Strel'tsov, above all stood the cause and interests of combat readiness. For the sake of this main thing he spared neither strength nor time. That is how he ended his military path. He fell while in front of the regiment in ranks; his war wounds had told on him. He was carried to his office and given first aid. Vasilii Andreyevich opened his eyes and whispered:

"Tell my family, my son, to enter military school."

His mother returned to the hotel, full of impressions, and told about how touching her meeting with her husband's fellow soldiers had been, and with what love they remembered their commander.

Andrey recalled all of this again and again to the tapping of the wheels.

Yes, his father had also written a request, but his motive and the circumstances were entirely different. And when he understood that a no less important matter, linked with the future interests of the country and its security awaited him, he decided without hesitation to go to school and he took back the request.

"And I, what did I do," Strel'tsov thought with bitterness.

"Tempted by leave I acted rashly. And they believed in me. It turns out that I shirked and refused the difficult burdens, and thus unintentionally put them on the shoulders of another. No, Father would not have done that."

Strel'tsov restlessly turned over in his bunk. He would do much now to change his hasty decision. Unfortunately it was too late. Now he has to work hard and with perseverance in order to win back the trust of his commander and fellow officers. "Well, I'm ready to do it!" Strel'tsov told himself resolutely, and it seemed that for the first time in recent weeks he felt relieved.

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CSO: 1801/062

ARMED FORCES

USTINOV ADDRESSES MOSCOW MILITARY MEETING

OW141023 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 0055 GMT 13 Nov 83

[From the "I Serve the Soviet Union" program: Report by Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, at the general political day for generals, admirals, and officers of the USSR Defense Ministry's central apparatus, the Moscow Military District, and the Moscow Air Defense District held in Moscow on 11 November: "The Tasks of the Armed Forces Arising From the Statement by Yu. V. Andropov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"--recorded. A somewhat different account of this speech was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 12 November 1983, and appeared in FBIS DAILY REPORT 14 November 1983 pp R1-R4]

[Text] Comrades: Holding political days in our country is a continuation of one of the remarkable Leninist traditions. During these days, with the active participation of the broad masses of working people and army and navy servicemen, the more topical questions of Communist Party and Soviet state policy are discussed and ways of solving them in the concrete conditions of the activities of labor and military collectives are outlined. This discussion allows one to become more profoundly aware of--to use Lenin's phrase--the features of the present moment and understand party requirements in solving fundamental tasks; it allows every toiler and serviceman, enterprise collective, institution, unit, and ship to more clearly determine their place in them.

Today we are holding a political day to more fully and comprehensively study the ideas and conclusions of the statement and other addresses of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and chairman of the USSR Defense Council, and to determine how the Ministry of Defense can better implement his directives in further strengthening the country's defense capabilities and improve combat readiness of the armed forces. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov has asked me to pass on combat greetings and best wishes in work to all participants in today's political day. [applause]

Comrades, our country, together with all progressive mankind, has just marked its greatest holiday--the anniversary of the Great October Socialist

Revolution. Two-thirds of a century has passed since the world's first state of workers and peasants was born. Today it is an inspiring source of strength for all working people in the struggle for social liberation. Great Lenin's prophetic words have come true: Our socialist republic of soviets will stand firm as a torch of international socialism and as an example for all working masses. No force in the world today can extinguish this mighty torch or eclipse it.

Our country celebrated its 66th October in the prime of its might and full of creative energy. The country of Great October acts in the international arena as the unfailing and unwavering standard-bearer of peace. Socialism has no other aims other than the concern for the people's interests, and this concern primarily proposes struggle against new wars and for ensuring international security.

As far back as Lenin's famous decree on peace, Soviet authorities declared that expansionist imperialist wars were the greatest crime against mankind. The Communist Party and Soviet state today continue to remain devoted to the cause of peace. The struggle to reduce the threat of war and to curb the arms race is the crucial direction of the foreign policy activities of the country of soviets.

The consistent devotion to the cause of peace and security of peoples was revealed with new force in the statement of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. This document of enormous political significance profoundly and comprehensively expresses the main aim of the foreign policy of our party and the Soviet state--the prevention of nuclear war and the strengthening of universal peace. The statement contains a clear class analysis of the prevailing world situation and a principled assessment of the reckless and adventurist course being conducted in international affairs by the current U.S. administration, which is nudging the world toward nuclear catastrophe.

To put it briefly, Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov points out, this is a militaristic course which poses a serious threat to peace. Ignoring the interests of other states and peoples, it essentially tries to ensure for the United States a dominating position in the world.

The spearhead of the aggressive policy of the United States and its NATO allies is primarily directed against the USSR and other socialist community countries, and against all progressive forces in the world. And this policy is so open that neither the United States nor the West European NATO countries conceal it. Essentially the U.S. administration together with the leaders of the leading NATO countries are throwing down a military challenge to the socialist community. The patently aggressive aims of the broad-scale military preparations of the United States and NATO are corroborated by a whole series of circumstances.

First, the crusade against communism and against the USSR and other socialist countries declared by U.S. President Reagan 18 months ago has become not merely a slogan but a program of U.S. and NATO foreign policy activity. Its main direction is clearly defined. It consists of taking all measures

to ensure the readiness to destroy socialism as a sociopolitical system, and the practical actions of the U.S. political and military figures are now guided by this adventurist policy. The leaders of other NATO countries are also oriented toward achieving the aim set by them. This aim finds expression in virtually all the economic, political, ideological, and military measures being implemented by the United States and NATO. The ultrareactionary forces of imperialism have moved from appeals and slogans to their practical implementation.

Second, the United States and its NATO allies are attempting with the persistence of the possessed to shatter the prevailing military and strategic balance between the USSR and the United States, and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. New nuclear weapons systems, both strategic and medium-range, are being created which are perceived as a means for a first, disarming strike. These primarily include the MX intercontinental ballistic missiles, the first and second modifications of the Trident sea-based systems, the B-1B and stealth strategic bombers, and ground-, air-, and sea-based long-range cruise missiles. The American Pershing ballistic missiles and cruise missiles being deployed in Europe are also designed to achieve superiority over Warsaw Pact countries and to inflict a first nuclear strike against them.

Third, to give themselves a free hand in building up military preparations, the U.S. administration and the leadership of the other NATO countries are maneuvering in every possible way in an attempt to evade honest talks on stopping the arms race and arms reduction. Since the current U.S. administration came to power all talks on these most important questions have ceased or become deadlocked through its fault. Moreover, the United States went to the talks on the reduction of nuclear arms in Europe with manifest reluctance and only under the pressure of Soviet initiatives and world public opinion. However, these talks are being used by the Americans to deceive the peoples and as a false demonstration of the fact that the United States allegedly also wants arms reduction.

In fact our partners in the Geneva talks, Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich stressed in his statement, are by no means there to reach agreement. They have another task--to stretch time and then begin to deploy Pershing II ballistic missiles and long-range cruise missiles in Western Europe.

The so-called flexibility of the United States at the talks is also worthless. In actual fact it boils down to just one thing--juggling with figures, how many USSR missiles to reduce and what number of U.S. missiles to deploy in Europe.

Fourth, simultaneously with the U.S. and NATO arms buildup the scale of military exercises is increasing from year to year. They are being carried out over a vast expanse from the Arctic Ocean to the Mediterranean, from deep inside U.S. territories to the borders of the socialist community countries. Hundreds of thousands of people and large quantities of military hardware are involved in them.

Fifth, the United States is increasingly drawing other countries in various regions of the world into the orbit of its military preparations and implanting reactionary regimes with the aim of brutal suppression of anti-imperialist and national liberation movements. The U.S. administration is making active efforts to revive Japanese militarism and harness it to NATO's military and political machine.

The United States is preparing its armed forces with the intention that they be capable of immediate action anywhere on the globe. With the piratical attack on Grenada it demonstrated to the world with an overt threat that it is fully determined to employ them wherever it chooses.

For the sake of achieving its imperial goals, Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov emphasized in his statement, the U.S. administration is going so far that one must have doubts about the existence of any brakes at all in Washington to prevent it from crossing the line before which any thinking person must stop.

Sixth, the United States and NATO have launched a massive psychological attack against the USSR and the socialist community countries. Its aim is to prepare broad public opinion regarding the alleged inevitability of the struggle against socialism and communism with military means and to deceive the peoples and conceal from them the genuine aspirations of imperialist reaction for world supremacy--hence the most misanthropic slander and lies to the extent of foul invective against the socialist countries; hence too the pursuit of large-scale ideological diversions, blackmail, incitement, and provocations against the socialist community states; hence the insolent attempts to accuse the Soviet Union and other countries of socialism of exacerbating the international situation, increasing tension, and creating crisis situations.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly warned the United States and NATO that the buildup of military preparations and especially the realization of their plans to deploy missiles in Europe will lead to an extremely dangerous development of the situation and that the USSR and other socialist countries cannot remain indifferent to this. However, the leaders of the NATO bloc have not reacted in any way to all these warnings.

In the West they strive to distort all the peace-loving steps and initiatives of the USSR on arms reduction and to present them as alleged propaganda tricks. At the same time the United States and NATO direct their efforts not toward reducing tension that has arisen through their fault but toward exacerbating it; not toward halting the arms race but toward intensifying it; not toward strengthening peace but toward a buildup in preparations for war.

In the situation that has taken shape and faced with the growing danger, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are firmly and consistently struggling to preserve and strengthen peace. At the same time they are taking additional retaliatory measures and are doing everything necessary to ensure the reliable security of our country and its allies.

We do not strive for nuclear supremacy but we will not permit nuclear blackmail to be used for the implementation of a policy of force against us. As Yuriy Vladimirovich emphasized in his statement, the Soviet Union will be capable of giving the proper response to any attempt to break the existing military strategic balance and its words will not differ from its deeds. [applause]

If the new U.S. intermediate-range missiles are installed in Europe then our moratorium on the deployment of analogous intermediate-range means in the European zone of the USSR will be lifted. And we will begin additional deployment of these means. Risking its own security, Comrade Andropov stressed in his recent replies to questions from PRAVDA, and the security of its allies is something the Soviet Union clearly cannot and will not do.

By agreement with the GDR and CSSR Governments preparatory work has already begun on their territories for the deployment of operational-tactical missile complexes. We will be forced to take other effective measures as well, including ones that will graphically demonstrate the illusory nature of U.S. calculations on its geographical isolation and the invulnerability of its own territory.

Measures are being taken that are aimed at making the USSR armed forces constantly ready to combat a strong and technically well-equipped enemy.

The Soviet people can be confident that no enemy intrigues will catch us unawares. Our armed forces are capable of giving a crushing rebuff to any aggression from whatever quarter. The Soviet people's peaceful labor is defended, and defended reliably. [applause] [Speech interrupted by 9-minute montage of video shots showing various Soviet weapons systems and troops in action]

The main task of party political work must be considered to be further intensification of efforts aimed at implementing the decisions of the 26th party congress, the directives of the November and June Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's directions to further increase the combat readiness of the armed forces. It is important to ensure high ideological tempering, the readiness of all personnel to defend the motherland, and a profound understanding of the exceptional complexity of the contemporary military and political situation and the increased danger of an outbreak of a new world war. We must actively and persistently foster high vigilance and mobilize all servicemen both to increase combat readiness and the combat training of each subunit, unit, and ship and to strengthen military discipline.

Ideological and mass political work requires constant improvement. It must be pursued in accordance with the directives of the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum and other party decisions. Everybody must well realize that ideological work is not just a job for professionals--the ideologists and propagandists. It is the job of the whole party and every communist, irrespective of his position. And naturally, it is primarily the

responsibility of all communists, the leadership element in the army and navy, and the central apparatus of the Ministry of Defense.

Currently in the armed forces, as throughout our country, accountability and election party meetings are being held. In actual fact they are nearing their conclusion. At these meetings communists are expressing critical remarks and submitting valuable proposals. They must be generalized and analyzed in the most attentive and thorough way, and every measure must be taken so that all critical remarks are heeded and proposals are implemented.

Comrades, the ideas and conclusions outlined in the statement and other addresses of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov are for us, as they are for all Soviet people, a guide to action and strict requirements in all our efforts. The patriotic appeal--we will support Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's statement by further raising combat readiness--was heard at meetings of servicemen held in units and on ships, at meetings of servicemen's and fleet collectives, and in party and Komsomol organizations. It is our lofty duty to turn this appeal into practical deeds and an unswerving strengthening of the country's defense capability and to ensure the reliable security of the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and their allies.

Permit me to express confidence that the generals and admirals and the officers of the central apparatus of the Ministry of Defense, closely united around the Leninist Central Committee headed by Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, will make a worthy contribution to strengthening the defensive might of our socialist motherland.

CSO: 1801/094

ARMED FORCES

SOVETSKIY VOIN PROFILED

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 16, Aug 83 (signed to press 28 Jul 83) p 52

[Article: "Subscribe to Newspapers and Magazines"]

[Text] The subscription to newspapers and magazines for 1984 begins on 1 August.

Dear comrades! You can subscribe to the newspaper "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"—central organ of the USSR Ministry of Defense—and the military journals "SOVETSKIY VOIN," "KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL," "AGITATOR ARMII I FLOTA," "AVIATSIYA I KOSMONAVTIKA," "VOYENNO-ISTORICHESKIY ZHURNAL," "VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY," "VOYENNNY VESTNIK," "VOYENNO-MEDITSINSKIY ZHURNAL," "MORSKOY SBORNIK," "TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE," "ZNAMENOSETS," "ZAKUBEZHNOYE VOYENNOYE OBOZRENIYE," "TYL I SNABZHENIYE SOVETSKIKH VOORUZHENNYKH SIL," "SOVETSKOYE VOYENNOYE OBOZRENIYE" (in Russian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic), "Book collection" of "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA," "Illustrated Supplement" to the magazine "SOVETSKIY VOIN," "Cultural and Educational Activities in the Military Forces," and "Book Collection" of the magazine "SOVETSKIY VOIN."

Subscriptions to the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and the military magazines are accepted /without restriction/ through subscription organizers in military units, on ships, in institutions and VUZ's of the Soviet Army and Navy, and in the communications departments and organs of "Soyuzpechat'."

Publishing house of the newspaper KRAZNAYA ZVEZDA

Many readers express the desire to become better acquainted with our magazine and with its past and present. We are meeting these wishes.

"SOVETSKIY VOIN" is one of the oldest social-political and lieterary-art magazines in our country. Earlier it was called "KRASNOARMEYETS." The magazine is only one year younger than our glorious armed forces. The first issue of it was published on 15 April 1919. In this year, the address of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin "To the Red Army Comrades" was published on its pages. Addressed to the person with a gun, the workers and peasants dressed in soldiers' overcoats, it sounded the clarion call to battle for the republic of the Soviets--sparing neither blood nor life--to fight "for worker and peasant power against land-owners and against the tsarist generals."

Mikhail Vasil'yevich Frunze wrote: "In the performance of its revolutionary duty, the magazine 'KRASNOARMEYETS' occupies a very important place. It is the only mass Red Army magazine in the Red Army and it teaches by the examples of the past and educates by the facts of the present." And today our magazine teaches its readers, and first and foremost its young ones, "by the examples of the past and educates with the facts of the present." Because the subject of the military past of our army and the subject of the modern army are the two main trends of "SOVETSKIY VOIN."

The magazine has many good traditions. And one of them is that since the magazine's birthday eminent party, state, and military figures have appeared on its pages. The constant rubric "my fate is in the fate of the motherland" was introduced in the capacity of continuing this tradition.

Beginning with Gor'kiy, the artistic word of almost all of our well-known writers and poets was passionately sounded from the pages of "SOVETSKIY VOIN" ("KRASNOARMEYETS"). During the Great Patriotic War the magazine consolidated around itself more than 250 writers, poets, publicists, artists, and composers who through the weapon of profound artistic influence helped the party and the nation to defeat the fascist invaders. Aleksey Tostoy, Dem'yan Bednyy, Aleksandr Fadeyev, Konstantin Simonov, Vsevolod Vishnevskiy, Boris Lavrenev, Leonid Sobolev, Nikolay Tikhonov, Vyacheslav Shishkov, Il'ya Erenburg, Konstantin Trenyev, Petr Pavlenko, Anna Karavayeva, Vera Inber, Marietta Shaginyan, Samuil Marshak, Sergey Mikhalkov, Vadim Kozhevnikov and many many others were continuous authors during those difficult military years.

Aleksandr Tvardovskiy wrote his principal book on the instructions of the editorial office, and the legendary soldier Vasil'y Terkin began to walk with confidence from the pages of the magazine to victory.

Recalling it a long time later, the poet wrote:

During those days when the front
Still heaved a sigh around Gzhatsk and Vyaz'ma,
The magazine for its own people
Became the soldier's defensive custom.

In 1944 the magazine "KRASNOARMEYETS" was awarded the combat Order of the Red Star for successful work in the military, political, and cultural education of the Red Army's personnel.

After the Great Patriotic War the magazine "SOVETSKIY VOIN" lived and lives through the interests of the armed forces. Showing the qualitatively new level of our army and navy and their combat equipment which conforms to the demands of the times, the magazine constantly maintains as the center of its attention the versatile and vivid image of the modern soldier-patriot, the internationalist, and the heir of the heroic combat traditions of their fathers and grandfathers, and it glorifies the romance of military service.

The military feature story is one of the main genres of the magazine. In 1984 "SOVETSKIY VOIN" will continue to publish feature stories both about war heroes and about those young soldiers who are standing watch over the motherland, and the magazine will regularly publish materials devoted to the 40th anniversary of the victory gained by the Soviet Army over the fascists in 1944.

Next year on its pages a reader will be able to become acquainted with the interesting works--chapters from new novels and stories by well-known writers--of Georgiy Markov, Yruiy Bondarev, Mikhail Alekseyev, Ivan Stadnyuk, Viktor Stepanov, Nikolay Gorbachev, Gennadiy Seminikhin, Nikolay Kambulov, Vladimir Karpov, and others.

"SOVETSKIY VOIN" is widely known for its short military stories. Both experienced and beginning writers appearing in this genre are grouped around the magazine, and they include: Irina Raksha, Yuriy Gribov, Mikhail Kolosov, Oleg Strizhak, Viktor Leskov, Vladimir Vozovikov, Leonid Konovalov, Viktor Muratov, Gennadiy Anan'yev, and many others. They are working on new stories for "SOVETSKIY VOIN," the majority of which will be published next year.

As is the tradition, poetry and verses glorifying love for the motherland, the romance of army and navy service, and the military labor of Soviet soldiers will be widely presented on the magazine's pages. The widely known poets Mikhail Dudin, Maksim Tank, Oleg Shestinskiy, Nikolay Dorizo, Vladimir Firsov, Yegor Isayev, Anatoliy Sofronov, Aleksandr Koval'-Volkov, Fazu Aliyeva, and Konstantin Vanshenkin, as well as talented young poets in shoulder boards who know the modern army well and who know how to vividly communicate in their verses the feelings of the contemporary soldier, will appear with selections of their new verses. "SOVETSKIY VOIN" is solemnly following the instructions of Lenin Prize laureate Nikolay Tikhonov "to be the cradle of new outstanding writers and poets who have dedicated their creative works to the military and patriotic theme."

As before, a lot of consideration will be given to the problems of ideological, aesthetic, and moral education of young people. National artists of the USSR Mikhail Ul'yanov, Vyacheslav Tikhonov and others, leading masters of the Soviet theater, as well as well-known composers, artists, and art critics will appear in the magazine.

Next year as always the magazine will give broad coverage of the physical training and sports in our country and in the armed forces. Along with the feature stories and reporting, readers will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the new documentary stories of leading figures in our sports and particularly of Viktor Tikhonov, the USSR's chief hockey coach.

USSR pilot-cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya is working on an autobiographical story for "SOVETSKIY VOIN."

The magazine is devoting a lot of attention to youth preparing for service in the army and the navy. in the new year, a special heading "The Future Soldier's Club" is being introduced for this purpose. The material being published here will be useful not only for youth of premilitary age, but also for military instructors at schools, activists in DOSAAF primary organizations, and everyone who is involved in the heroic, patriotic and military education of youth.

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ARMED FORCES

OFFICER BECOMES COMMANDER EVEN AFTER BEING PUNISHED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel V. Kir'yazov, correspondent for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Northern Group of Forces, "The Same Prokhorov: "The Making of a Commander"]

[Text] We drove to the "point", to the anti-aircraft missile battery, which was at operational readiness. The lieutenant escorting me told of the "surprise" in great detail: the battery, for a long time having counted on the steady "average performers", rose to first place in the unit according to totals for the winter training period.

"And everything is due to Captain Prokhorov," said the lieutenant.

"Prokhorov?" I asked, and thought "Could it be the same one?"

"Do you know him?" inquired the lieutenant.

"I knew a Prokhorov once. But this could hardly be the same one. It's not like him. Apparently it is someone with the same last name."

About a year and a half ago, the name of my acquaintance, Captain Vladimir Prokhorov, was on everybody's lips. For serious errors in educating his subordinates, he was brought before the officer's court of honor. The communists awarded him party punishment; he was demoted and transferred to a neighboring division.

I knew of all the trouble in this officer's service, all his mistakes. More precisely, there was one error--one great, important error--which brought with it a whole string of failures.

Prokhorov came to the unit to be the deputy commander of the battery, and with his brain, he went to work. He decided about himself: I will become the type of officer that all the soldiers will truly like....

This good intention completely gripped the officer. To realize his goals most quickly, he decided that of the many paths leading to the hearts of his subordinates, to take the most certain one, as it seemed to him: the path of constant, unremitting kindness to his people. Kindness, he thought, will rally his subordinates, win their liking for him and give them a burning desire to work strenuously. And he was overjoyed when the soldiers and sergeants more and more began to turn to him with various requests: to let them go to the canteen at inopportune times and to take special leave.

Many of these requests were associated with insignificant breaches in standards and rules. This he realized, but was convinced that achieving happiness was the main, important goal and he could close his eyes to the infractions. He believed in his rightness even more when Komsomol members of the battery selected him, a communist, to hold office in their organization.

Such was the beginning of service for Captain Prokhorov in this unit. Let me repeat: the beginning. The time when it was still not too late to correct an officer that has selected goals to achieve that are not on the right path. But in this subunit, they were not able opportunely to recognize this.

Meanwhile, in the officer's educational work, an obvious trend was already revealed: Prokhorov not infrequently substituted exactingness and strictness with familiarity, persuasions and pardoning subordinates' mistakes and misdemeanors. He himself did not notice when that bound was overstepped, across which the inclination to resist authority with his subordinates turned him into a nice, all-forgiving chief.

The enlightenment occurred completely by accident. On the day before one of the inspections, the battery was preparing for field deployment. The troops were faced with undergoing a difficult test, and Captain Prokhorov, as acting commander of the subunit, was noticeably worried. Two of his subordinates, whom he trusted and tried to rely upon in his work, approached him. A conversation took place that went something like this: Say, we will do everything possible so the battery won't go before the board, but you, Comrade Captain, must not forget us when you hand out leave after the inspection....

Well, that was the first time Prokhorov understood just what his so-called kindness had turned into. He had not expected to hear such a thing. And from whom? From Private Vladimir Kostin, who he considered to be one of the most conscientious soldiers. Prokhorov had even written to Kostin's stepfather, eagerly trying to convince him that he was mistaken in considering Vladimir egotistic and callous toward people. Apparently the stepfather understood his stepson's character flaws much better.

And soon after, another incident occurred.

Troops were being discharged into the reserves, having completed their term of service in the army. On the day before their departure, they decided to meet in the tearoom and spend their last night sitting around the samovar with the officers. Prokhorov, as well as other officers, received an invitation to this traditional tea session, but he could not attend--he was on duty. He accidentally found out later on that on the farewell evening, where many kind

words about commanders resound, not one soldier even remembered him. Conversely, they most of all thanked those who were exacting and strict.

Prokhorov fretted for a long time, over and over, trying to understand why his intentions, seemingly the best, suffered such clear failures. "Why? Why?" he asked himself. "In fact, everybody knows that kindness and sensitivity must, in return, engender kindness, responsiveness and gratitude in people. But this didn't happen...."

"Very well," he decided, "from now on everything will be different."

Prokhorov would talk with the commander of the subunit and the political officer, share his doubts and ask their advice. Unfortunately, he drew into himself; he kept his thoughts and doubts private.

Life and service for the battery's troops took their course. But now, nobody knew Prokhorov; that kind, obliging captain that he was not so long ago. The officer became sharp, not conversing with his subordinates differently, as in raised tones, but the smallest liberty from them irritated him, which he often was not able to restrain. This was a different but no less dangerous extreme. Once in haste, he belittled the dignity of Private A. Babayev.

For an officer, this is a grave fault, and Captain Prokhorov was punished for it with all severity.

This is how he was, the Prokhorov that I knew. To confess, in all this time I more than once mentally returned to this event, intending to find out how fate has treated the officer. Did he crack; didn't he give up as hopeless? Say what you like, but at his far-from-youthful age it is not easy to start all over again.

But unfortunately, for a year and a half I was not able to visit the unit.

...Captain Prokhorov met us. It was the same one.

Here, at the "point", I began to know the rest of his story.

What happened literally shook Prokhorov. But he found the strength to rise above the offense, severely and uncompromisingly to analyze his career, step by step. And, analyzing each of its steps, he took the main point of reference --the interests of business. He understood the most important point: that these interests are also his; perhaps, sometimes without realizing it, he drew aside to the second plan, and in its pedagogical flings he deviated from the necessity to maintain his own authority.

He has been lucky in the new position. In the subunit everything is subordinated to the interests of the service. And when he, bringing the apparatus behind him nearly to perfection, tried to dwell on it, he was conclusively shown that more is expected of him. In particular, why does he overlook individual violations of order and rules of servicing equipment by his colleagues? Does he really care; isn't the honor of the group dear to him? The reproach was well-deserved, and Prokhorov came to some conclusions from it.

What was most astonishing for Prokhorov, he suddenly felt as if without pressure, without the obvious strain to accelerate the growth of authority. They turned to him for help, his advice and valued his word. Even in that area in which he considered himself not very strong--education.

After completion of the training subunit, Junior Sergeant A. Guzienko arrived on station. Soon after, the battery was to transition to operational readiness. To inspect readiness of the specialists, representatives from the unit's headquarters arrived. They were of the opinion that Guzienko was still too new to entrust with an action station.

Captain Prokhorov saw the solemn, scornful glance that Specialist First Class Private V. Kazantsev cast at the junior sergeant. He earlier noted that the soldier haughtily looked at the young commander. Having chosen the right moment he approached Kazantsev.

"It appeared to me that you were pleased with what has taken place. But this is a blotch on our entire battery, on the Komsomol organization in which you, incidentally, are a member of the buro. That is not soldierly, nor like a member of Komsomol...."

Kazantsev hung his head. The officer actually noticed that he tried to hide from those around him. The soldier said nothing; he asked permission and left.

Later Prokhorov learned what measures the Komsomol buro adopted to help Guzienko. And buro member Kazantsev took the lead.

Weeks passed and Guzienko, with the help of the commander and comrades, substantially increased his specialty and technical readiness. He was permitted to take an action station.

His fellow soldiers warmly congratulated the junior sergeant on his success. Prokhorov him and then went up to Kazantsev:

"Half of the congratulations, by right, belong to you. And to tell you the truth, I am very glad. Excuse me if I spoke sharply to you last time."

"Yes sir, Comrade Captain. Thank you for the lesson."

He left and Prokhorov watched him go and recalled how he dreamed someday to be worthy of his subordinates' gratitude, doing anything for the sake of this, not infrequently contrived for them, overlooking things when it was necessary to be exacting. And here it was, this gratitude. He deserved it when he openly and frankly told a subordinate the perhaps bitter, but sacred truth...

Time passed. Personnel changed and Prokhorov changed. After some time they removed the party punishment. This happened on the range.

At the end of a party buro meeting, when the communists unanimously voted to remove the punishment, political officer Major K. Nikolayev said:

"It is the opinion of the commander to designate you Deputy Commander of the battery. Can you handle it?"

Before Prokhorov could answer, someone said:

"He's already handling it. He already does everything required of a deputy commander. Deputy on social principles, so to speak."

Everyone smiled in response to this remark.

After 6 months Prokhorov received a second promotion—he became battery commander.

We left the "point" late in the evening. The light from the headlights, swinging from side to side, persistently hugged the S-bends of the winding road. The lieutenant was giving advice to the young driver. When we reached the asphalt surface he turned around to me:

"Well, did it turn out to be the Captain Prokhorov that you knew?"

How could I answer? This was the same Prokhorov that permitted such great pedagogical mistakes. But that Prokhorov no longer exists. Now I am acquainted with another Prokhorov whose high exactions are united with respect and trust toward people.

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ARMED FORCES

ATTEMPT TO UNSUBSTANTIATE CHARGES OF MISCONDUCT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy, "Party Life: Tracking Letters": "In Disagreement With Conscience"]

[Text] "I beg you to protect me from persecution for criticism." Such began a letter to the editor from Engineer-Major V. Nechitaylo. The author reported that after publication in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA of a report entitled "It's Difficult To Work Without Support" (8 Sep 1982), it was if he, as deputy chairman of the people's control group of the unit, began to be persecuted: as long ago as 26 Sep, the personal file of Engineer-Major Nechitaylo was sent to the regular organs for computation of length of service and decision of the question concerning discharging the officer into the reserves because of age. In Jan 1983 the impending discharge was officially explained to him. "That's right," wrote comrade Nechitaylo, "my sense of principles was twisted."

I knew that after publication of the letter "It's Difficult To Work Without Support" in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and after detailed investigation of the facts in it, the unit commander, Engineer-Colonel S. Isaenko was severely punished by the party and the military. It was thought that the communist-supervisor could not control his nerves, resented the punishment and as is still the case, decided to "win back" the people's controllers. The tie between critical articles in the newspaper and recommendation of punishment for Engineer-Major V. Nechitaylo seemed so obvious, that to tell you the truth, I was even somewhat disheartened by the further course of events.

"Yes, what kind of people's controller is Nechitaylo?" they said to me in the unit. "He only computed, occupied someone else's position and there were few benefits. Nobody ever saw him making inspections...."

You could say that almost from the threshold my logical constructions began to fall in, from afar having appeared scarcely reproachable.

They began to crumble, but still had not totally caved in. What kind of things could have been said at an earlier date! But familiarity with the documents of the people's control group was convincing: yes, participation of Engineer-Major Nechitaylo in its work was minimal. But at least there was no conflict, and Nechitaylo did not enter into the not infrequent appearance

of this keen plot of participation in public affairs; he did not make any enemies. His family was not mentioned in the aforementioned newspaper publication. In a word, no matter how you take it, a portrait of a man of principle, grieving public worker, as Nechitaylo painted himself in the letter, did not work.

Nechitaylo worked at the aircraft repair plant for a long time. He was deputy to the chief engineer; a highly visible figure in the organization. But the officer's contribution to overall affairs--his position was no match for him--was highly unassuming. In a certification (by the way, written long before the newspaper publication) his lack of initiative at work, negligence in service and weak competence in solving production problems were pointed out. I spoke with many people and there were no enthusiastic references.

Engineer-Captain V. Laputin, who came to this plant not long ago, for example, spoke with offense of Nechitaylo's practice of indiscriminately calling people loafers and attaching various labels and nicknames to people. The chief of the shop, Engineer-Major M. Murzin spoke about his weak organizational abilities, about the fact that he does not render practical assistance in repairing aviation equipment or introducing progressive types of labor organization. All were united in the attitude that Nechitaylo was non-self-critical, and sickly reacts to the remarks of coworkers and superiors.

He was told about this straight to his face at the meeting of the plan party committee. And they recalled a meeting that Engineer-Major Nechitaylo did not wish to remember.

...An important task was placed before the organization. People, so to speak, lost track of the days. They lived together for a period, to complete an important mission. What to do with Nechitaylo? Even at this busy time it was not always possible to find him at work.

But there was an incident on duty when Nechitaylo, instead of conscientiously completing the obligation entrusted to him, left on personal business. And here, an urgent introduction....

Much was recalled at the party committee meeting. I thought: if these words had been spoken earlier, it is possible that such criticism for Nechitaylo would be somehow useful.

This point could be made if there was not the idea to which Nechitaylo incessantly adheres in his letter. "I beg you to protect me from persecution for criticism." This idea is so serious that it is desirable to dwell on it specially.

As we have determined, they were worried about his age. To intervene in lengthening a term of military service is possible only when an officer has weighty grounds. Nechitaylo knew well of this. But having been insulted, he decided "to slam" the door. "Ah...so that's how you are!" There had to be grounds. And he found these grounds. In common public work, avoided earlier like the plague, he suddenly recalled that he was a people's controller,

which appeared in some newspaper article, which if the facts are given "to the mind", then discharge into the reserves might completely pass as a reprisal for criticism. And imagine that Nechitaylo's calculation was correct. Why, in the case of unwarranted absence from duty does he get away with only a light scare?

"I'll tell you honestly." Engineer-Colonel Isaenko answered this question, "I was afraid that they wouldn't understand in the organization. They will think that I am settling a score."

This began to be avoided in the personnel department of group of forces aviation. Say we discharge him, and suddenly the people won't understand.

It is seen by these facts, as a principally new phenomenon. This is when a man constructs a dismissal on the fact that he is "avenged", and becomes as if immune to the educational influence on the part of the commander and superiors.

On one hand, he needs to be punished for this or another specific crime. On the other hand, punish and "it won't be understood".

It is thought that this will cost in distrust toward the organization and toward the political flair of the people. But Engineer-Major Nechitaylo built his calculations on this "distrust".

The conclusion suggests itself: Officer Nechitaylo needs to be "protected", not "from persecution for criticism" (this is an idle invention), but from the warp of his conscience, from insufficient self-criticism, developing in itself not imaginary, not false, but real party principles.

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GROUND FORCES

DISCUSSION WITH COLONEL GENERAL POPKOV

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 16, Aug 83 (signed to press 28 Jul 83)
pp 5-7

[Discussion with Col Gen Mikhail Danilovich Popkov, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Ground Forces, conducted by Col A. Danilov, SOVETSKIY VOIN special correspondent: "A School of Life and a School of Indoctrination"]

[Text] "I am fortunate that I had the occasion to be a soldier," writes Aleksandr Pavlov to the magazine's editorial office. "I am fortunate that I know the value of the soldier's friendship and that for two years I wore the overcoat and slept in a soldier's barracks that had become a second home."

"These two years didn't pass in vain for me," Pavlov reports further. "In fact also along with my native people, I built towns and founded steel, sowed grain, and bent over the operating table. I also marched in step with the five-year plan and the times. I was a soldier. And therefore a part of my labor was visible everywhere. The entire country was a home to me, the entire country cared about me, and my honorable and conscientious service was my gratitude to it for this."

Pavlov concludes: "Just as it did for many others, army service for me became an outstanding school of life. Being in the reserve and working in my own native sovkhos, I understand very well now how much the army gave me and how I am indebted--no, not indebted, but eternally grateful to it."

My conversation with Military Council member and Chief of the Political Directorate of Ground Forces Colonel General Mikhail Danilovich Popkov began with this letter.

"You know, this letter touched me," the general says. "Very likely everyone who is connected with the army takes to heart the excited lines of Aleksandr Pavlov. In reality, our army always was a large school of life and a school of indoctrination."

Mikhail Danilovich was prepared to talk for hours about army service which is covered with romance. It's interesting to listen to him. The 41st year has just passed since he cast his lot with the army. In 1942 the 17-year-old lad went to the front voluntarily. He fought at the Kursk Bulge, liberated the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Poland, and he finished the war on the banks of the Elbe in Germany. He was decorated with orders and medals.

"The dearest decoration for me," relates Mikhail Danilovich, "is the medal 'For Valor.' I earned it for battles at the Kursk Bulge, but I didn't receive the decoration for 35 years. It just happened that way. I was seriously wounded and the documents were mislaid somewhere. And then after many years the medal found its recipient."

Mikhail Danilovich Popkov has a rich biography. His entire life is connected with the army. In it he covered the path from private to colonel general and from deputy political instructor of a company to an eminent political worker.

Twice a year--in the spring and in the fall--our nation sees off its sons to the Soviet Army, entrusting them with the defense of the country: its buildings, fields, forests, and rivers--everything in which we are rich and fortunate. And that's the way the motherland calls its young lads to the combat colors. And the military soldier's service begins for them.

The tactical exercise has been underway for the third day. The motorized riflemen have barely slept a wink for 3 days. And in front there is still a temporary bridge across a water position, and ahead there is a stubborn battle with the "enemy."

The submarine is in its second month of traveling along the ocean depths. Relieving each other, sailors and officers stand the difficult watch. More and more frequently the boys recall their native shores. But service is service. They'll still be a long time in returning home.

The rocket troops watchfully and vigilantly bear duty at the combat posts.

The pilots cut through the sky like lightning on their silver wings.

Airborne troops jump fearlessly from the open hatches of aircraft.

"Yes, such is the soldier's service. Rigorous, difficult, and restive, but extremely essential for the protection of the Soviet people's peaceful labor," says Mikhail Danilovich.

But if you ask any one of those who wear the shoulder boards about it, he will answer:

"The service--this is my life. And is it really possible not to love life?"

Ask those who have already long ago removed their shoulder boards, and they will recall with the warmest words their service in the army or in the navy.

In various ways, the destinies of millions of Soviet people are interwoven with the destiny of the army. It came into the life of veterans now gray with age on that frosty January day in 1918 when the invocatory words of Lenin's decree reached the entrenchments of the Red Guards fighters concerning the fact that the old army served as an instrument of class oppression of the workers and it became necessary for the exploited classes to create a new army, which would be the bulwark of Soviet power.

And now it's as if the veterans can hear the rustle of the combat colors carried by young regiments of the Red Army of Workers and Peasants through the fire of the civil war and through the difficult years of foreign military intervention.

For many the army became even more dear during the years of the Great Patriotic War. To this day, the memory of the frontline soldiers retains the ringing echo of triumphal salutes, up to which led a long and steep path doused with blood and illuminated with the courage and deeds of millions.

Military service is also memorable to those who were in the army during the postwar years when it acquired rockets and atomic submarines and it put supersonic aircraft into service.

And, of course, the army is dear and close to the heart of those who are now keeping combat watch under its colors covered with glory.

Look closely at the manner of a soldier--he is full of health and energy, his muscles breathe strength, and he is strong and sturdy. The army makes people spiritually richer, expands their horizons, and teaches them the persistence, skill, and ability to overcome difficulties.

"The army is the school of courage and combat skill," the general observes with pride. "And our army has yet one more distinctive feature, the significance of which in fact far exceeds military limits. Our army was always the school of political, moral and professional indoctrination. During the early years of Soviet power, it used to be that an illiterate lad left a village for the Red Army. He returned not only having mastered military knowledge, but he was tempered ideologically and was already sufficiently educated, and, as a rule, after this he became either the 'village librarian' or secretary of the village soviet. From the army came first-class tractor drivers to the countryside, and people of high labor standards to the buildings and plants."

During the early years of building the Soviet armed forces, there were few people in the Red Army with secondary education or even a primary education. And now there isn't a soldier without a certificate or a diploma.

Today's soldier and sailor along with his comrades studies higher mathematics, nuclear physics, and astronomy, and defends his thesis for a candidate's degree. And this is not surprising: such is the manner of modern Soviet youth--the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the October Revolution to whom our Soviet motherland provided an education.

At the dawn of Soviet power soldiers of the revolution carried the old trilinear rifle (trekhlineyka). Now our soldiers stand by their rockets and at the helms of powerful atomic submarines and supersonic aircraft.

Mikhail Danilovich remarks: "Millions of people of various ranks and at various times served in the army and are forever grateful to it for that experience which they received, and how many books have been written and how many songs have been sung about them! And, finally, it was precisely the pupils of the Soviet Army who were the first ones on our planet to pierce the "heavenly ceiling" and go out into space on the way to the stars. Being enraptured with the daring of such a feat, mankind applauded the Soviet person in a military uniform."

It was still in the 1930's when Aleksey Maksimovich Gor'kiy wrote: "We have the right to be proud of the fact that is unprecedented anywhere and anytime: our Red Army is a cultural strength, and is not just an organization created for physical protection of the worker and peasant state." This is also true today.

Our army—from marshal to private—is one harmonious combat family. Having the most experienced command personnel and strong and numerous party and Komsomol organizations, the Soviet Army and Navy are a mighty institution of training and indoctrination. It has become the rule that in the army young people receive the most diverse specialties which help them later on as a civilian and expand their range of knowledge. And there's no way to describe the physical and spiritual training. How many stooped backs the army has straightened! How many timid or, on the contrary, intractable dispositions it has corrected! It's not without reason that our army is so loved in the nation, and it's not without reason that it's revered and called the school of life.

Mikhail Danilovich emphasizes: "One who has gone through army training is not just a good soldier. As a rule, he is also an active builder of communism. Those who went through the soldier's school are gladly accepted into the ranks at any institute, technical school, new building project, plant, and kolkhoz."

"After finishing their term of service, many soldiers strive with all their heart and soul for Komsomol shock construction jobs where courage and strength of the spirit and the professional skill and civic maturity of the young generation are being tested in the intense, everyday life of the five-year plan."

"They're doing the right thing," the general says. "The combat-rooted spirit calls them to a godforsaken place in the taiga to build new towns and plants, to the blast furnaces, to the boundless kolkhoz fields, and to the faces of mines and pits."

Young people arrive there in earnest and for a long time. They come once again to test themselves and to go through the rigorous school of devotion to the cause for which their fathers and grandfathers fought. Having served out their period of service in the army, many are now managing large departments and trusts and they are running the organization with a business knowledge. And how many former soldiers are in charge of Komsomol youth brigades, are among the distinguished ranks of leading production workers, and have become the shock workers of communist labor!

In one unit I was told that after completing his service term, former secretary of the Komsomol organization Reserve Private First Class Il'gizer Mingaliyev went to the Kama Motor Vehicle Plant. His biography looks like many biographies of envoys of the armed forces. As a missileman, a highly qualified specialist, and an honor student in combat and political training, Mingaliyev was constantly in the circle of his comrades, took an active part in the life of the subunit [podrazdeleniye], studied himself, and helped the subunit. He himself studied and helped his comrades to master the formidable weapon.

Not so many years have passed already since Mingaliyev came for the first time to the city of Brezhnev. The term was somewhat short, but he absorbed so many things and events, and he turned around the fortune of a former soldier so abruptly, that Il'gizer decided once and for all "to make his life" at the Kama Motor Vehicle Plant.

Along with his Komsomol card, he was also keeping a small booklet--a commemorative leaflet presented to him at a construction project in the Komsomol committee. It says in it:

"Comrade! Today you join the ranks of a collective to which is entrusted the erection of a giant motor vehicle plant-- the Kama automotive plant. No matter where you are, set the example in fulfilling production quotas. Strengthen labor discipline! Know that today it is impossible to be a good production worker without sufficient knowledge. Therefore, choose a form of instruction within your capability--a school, technical school, institute and training center. Take an active part in the social life of your brigade, section, and directorate."

Mingaliyev took the instructions of the Komsomol as a combat assignment. Now he is in charge of a brigade of fitters.

Not so long ago his brother-soldier friends received a letter from him.

Il'gizer writes: "As you know, after being transferred to the reserve I went to Brezhnev and a most interesting thing happened here: job offers began to pour down as if from a horn of plenty. But here's the secret to that: I had just arrived from the army. The soldiers here enjoy particular esteem and they are the first to be granted work and rooms in the dormitory. Everyone knows that the army taught us to have a serious regard for labor and to perform all tasks precisely and on time."

"Many of the people my same age are working here and among them are representatives of 30 nationalities of our motherland. You ask if we are having a hard time. Yes, it's hard. But everyone knows that this is necessary. And I want to warn the "romantics" who come here with their knapsacks as if they are on an outing: we give a cordial welcome only to those who are not afraid of difficulties, who love real work, and who can look towards the future. In my opinion, it's not worth anything to live just for watching movies, eating well, and dressing nicely. One should live in such a way that one leaves something after oneself, and then when the years are passing can take pride in one's youth and destiny."

Mikhail Danilovich continues to talk with enthusiasm: "You know, when we speak about military service, then we mean one very important circumstance: it not only makes great demands on the people, but it also gives them a lot indefinitely. Sometimes you look at a person and he's already along in years, gray hair has silvered his temples, and his youthful slenderness has gone, but, nevertheless, in spite of the especially civilian suit, you see a soldier in him. His manner and behavior, and his attitude towards things all speak of military training and an army school. And how noticeable it is for parents, teachers, and plant and kolkhoz collectives that youth are transformed during the two or three year period of service in a unit or on a ship. You look at lads of that kind and the words of mothers and fathers addressed to their sons become clear:

'Well, you go into the army--they'll teach you a lot there.'"

"The countless majority of letters arriving here are from the parents of soldiers to the commanders and political workers at a political directorate, editorial offices of newspapers and magazines, and military units and ships. In these letters there is gratitude for educating the young people. Here's such a letter that came to us from Mariya Fedorovna, the mother of a soldier."

The general takes it from the desk drawer and reads:

"When we saw Volodya off to the army, I took it very hard for him. I envied his friends who entered the institutes. But then I had the occasion to be visiting in the area where my son was serving. Of course, I stopped to visit him at the unit. When I saw my son, I didn't recognize him right away. In front of me stood a soldier in a well-fitting military uniform. His appearance was serious, mature, and smart. And just then I understood that I wasn't right. It was a weight off my mind. I thought: it's good that Volodya is going through such a fine school for maturing.

"And now my son Volodya has already returned from service. I look at him and dote upon him. He became unrecognizable--he got stronger physically and spiritually, and he expanded his horizons. At the unit, he attained the rank of specialist first class. He was accepted into the party.

"Now he's a real man. He went to work at the plant, entered the institute, and is studying by correspondence. He's a completely changed person. And you know what it was like before the army! How much sorrow I've known with him. And I don't know what he would have come to. I had all my hope on the army. That's just the place, I thought, to put him on the right path. And I wasn't mistaken. My Volodya became somebody else completely different. I'm automatically reminded of the words from the old song of the Red Army where it said: 'It's better that there is no school for peasant sons in the Union.' Looking at my son, it's as if I'm seeing his commanders--intelligent, literate, and glorious patriots of our motherland.

"Thank you very much for educating my son and a low maternal bow.

"Respectfully, Mariya Fedorovna Kapitonova."

People who went through an army and navy school are respected and valued first of all for their diligence and for their high political consciousness and good professional and technical training.

Aleksandr Gitalov, an alumnus of the air force, became a distinguished person, a twice-decorated Hero of Socialist Labor, and a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Recalling how he began his working life, the former aviation mechanic relates:

"Having repaired all the agricultural machinery and prepared it for sowing, from force of my old soldier's habit I announced:

"The tractors are ready for flight!"

"Everyone began to laugh. And Ivan Batenko, a former officer of the Black Sea Fleet, remarked:

"Obviously you didn't forget the air force."

"I didn't answer at all, but thought for awhile that it's impossible to forget the years of service in the army. There they taught me how to use equipment and to be persistent and resolute in overcoming difficulties.

"Once in Kiev at a conference of leading agricultural workers of the Ukraine, I reported on work performed by the brigade. That arid year the kolkhoz workers gathered a record harvest on land cultivated by us. The chairman approved the brigade's work and asked me:

"Apparently you served in the army?"

"Yes, in military aviation," I answered proudly."

Technical training acquired in the army permitted Aleksandr Gitalov not only to master agricultural machinery to perfection, but also to become a kolkhoz production innovator. For many years now his tractor brigade has been raising corn and sunflowers without expending manual labor. Thousands of pupils and followers of the twice-decorated Hero of Socialist Labor Gitalov are working now in various regions of our country.

Mikhail Danilovich got up, walked around the study, and began to speak again: "Our military labor is special labor. But it's just as honorable and important as the labor of a worker, a kolkhoz worker, an engineer, and a scientist. Suppose we didn't erect the frames of plants and factories, we didn't repair the steam and electric locomotives, and we didn't grow grain, but in each new success of the country of Soviets there is a little part of our labor in the creation of material and spiritual wealth. The country needs peace in order to build communism. In order that our Soviet children are not left without fathers and in order that grief does not fall upon the shoulders of our mothers, wives and sisters, Soviet soldiers must be prepared at any minute to repel any aggression. Being the protector of one's motherland and of all humanity from the horrors of war and guarding the peace and security of nations--what a responsible and honorable task this is!"

I recalled a letter carried in the press, by Private First Class Nickolay Gusev who, in my opinion, expressed very precisely the mood and feelings of many young people.

"I was warm from the thought that I'll be arriving from the army as a real soldier, the way a Soviet soldier must be, and the way my parents wanted to see me.

"I recalled the feeling I had when I went to the recruiting station. I had prepared so much for entering the institute, day and night I sat with the textbooks, and now it's turned out to be for nothing. No, it's not for nothing! All this proved very useful in the army and I'll also have time after the army to enter the institute, and the more so that it helped me to make a sound choice in life.

"Several more of my classmates were also called up on the same day. We lads of the former 10th 'A' became soldiers. Sasha Shulyak is driving a combat vehicle somewhere around the roads of the Ukraine. Lenya Vorovik is serving as a military driver. Yurka Khodorovich, my friend since childhood, is serving in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. And Slava Dorbanosov is serving here beside me in Belorussia.

"Let one of us protect the sky and another build roads and bridges. But all of us are doing one important job--we are serving the motherland. We find nothing unusual about long marches and difficult studies. We know what the haze of dawn and the thick, chilly fog on a morning march is like. We have to sleep under the open sky and not sleep at all for several days while sitting at the steering wheel of a vehicle or listening to a broadcast.

"We not only learned how to shoot an automatic weapon well, to rapidly perform short forced marches, and to skillfully handle complicated combat equipment. The army fostered in us a high responsibility for our actions and a sense of the importance of military labor.

"We learned to work. After all, it's not a secret that there are also those who don't know how to hold a needle in their hands when they arrive at an army collective. And they also learn this in the army! It taught me a lot too: to dismantle complex radio equipment and handle a shovel, to repair boots and to launder clothes, and to wash dishes and scrub floors.

"We learned to value and understand the soldier's friendship. Army labor draws people together. I have friends from all corners of our immense motherland: Private First Class Ivan Kapralov from distant Kazakhstan, Private Vladimir Shkorobot from the Ukraine, Sergeant Aleksandr Sinev from the environs of Moscow, and Privates Grigoriy Pupko and Anatoliy Novikevich from Belorussia.

"They're nice fellows and good friends. In one word, they're real fighting men.

"The army is called the school of courage. And this is true. It was indeed here that I succeeded in tempering my character and fostering persistence and will power in myself.

"I recall the first short forced march for six kilometers with full equipment. It was very difficult. The sun is hot, your feet stick in the sand, and sweat pours down your face. Your head is squeezed as if by a vice. You want to stop. And with each meter this treacherous longing is growing all the time. It was the first test for us young soldiers. But then the service has still tested our endurance more than once. And how proud we were when we came out the victors!

"Frankly speaking, I am glad that I found myself serving in this branch of the armed forces. Communications are the nerves of the army. I really love the dissonance of noises in a broadcast and searching for the dots and dashes that I need.

"Even now, without concealing my pride, I admire the serious and concentrated faces of my comrades and catch myself reflecting that I'm no longer a boy, but a man, and the entire essence of which is directed towards one thing--how better to fulfill one's soldierly duty.

"Who among us in childhood hasn't dreamed about becoming a hero! This dream lives in each one of us now as well. Who among the soldiers doesn't want to be the very first shot to hit a target, to skillfully and rapidly surmount an obstacle in a combat vehicle, or, having completed a jump from an aircraft, to crush the 'enemy' with a daring attack!

"The romantic aspect differs greatly. But it always bolsters a soldier's faith in himself and in his strengths.

"It's not easy for youth from the protracted summer recess to come directly to the severe winter of army existence, tough marches, and long days of training. And he passes through this crucible of courage, steadfastness, and endurance because all around him are comrades, fellows just like he is, who always keenly understand how hard it is for you at this or some other time. That's why the commanders and political workers by their side are strict in an army way and considerate in a fatherly way.

"I recall that on the second day a sergeant arrived at the company. I was scrubbing the floor and was scolding the first sergeant in my mind for the excessive adherence to cleanliness. But, it seemed to me, the sergeant--shortish, weary, and covered with dust (he had just come in from training)--was angrily watching my work. But when I finished, he suddenly smiled and said: 'Let's get acquainted. From now on you're on my crew.' And it was like brightening my spirits.

"How much trouble I caused the sergeant! The first time was the muster signal and I could hardly drag myself out of the barracks. Oh, yes, I got out all right, but I couldn't run like all the normal people: in my haste, I had wound my foot wrappings haphazardly and they were unbearably squeezing my feet.

"And the first night firings when the burst I fired went out towards the stars twinkling farewell to the tracers. The first night standing sentinel when it seemed that someone was lurking behind every corner. And I stood breathlessly, firmly grasping my automatic weapon, and peering into the darkness until my eyes hurt.

"We all went through this difficult school of courage in order to always be ready for battle.

"Our beloved motherland is flourishing like a garden in spring. One's breath is taken away by the Herculean achievements of our people and the new and farther-reaching plans of communist creation. I, a soldier of the motherland, am also involved in all of this. I'm involved, not as a formality, with each of my actions and with each day that's spent. I'm involved with my heart."

Mikhail Danilovich explains: "I had to serve in garrisons both near and far. I confess that sometimes it had to be hard and at times it was difficult. But I don't regret it, and I'll never regret that I devoted my entire life to the army. There is no higher honor and duty than serving the motherland!"

Colonel General Popkov says in conclusion: "For us veterans who involved our life with the party and the army, there is no greater happiness than that we feel when we see that young people joining the ranks today are worthy heirs to the traditions of the past."

Carrying out the decisions of the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet people are laboring these days with inspiration. And soldiers of the army and the navy, always prepared to execute an order of our beloved motherland, are watchfully and vigilantly at their posts so that they can live quietly, melt metal, sow grain, comprehend the secrets of science, and rejoice in the radiance of the stars.

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GROUND FORCES

CHEMICAL WARFARE EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 21 Oct 83 p 4

[Report by Vl. Dement'yev: "New Recruits go into 'Combat'"]

[Text] During the day in the foothills of the Chatkal the thermometer still "functions" in a summertime mode. In the blazing sun it is near 40 but at night, especially toward morning, you realize that it is fall. By the way, the first-year cadets from Lt I. Ganzha's platoon are too busy to focus their attention on wonders of the continental climate as they have been ordered to occupy an attack position by a designated time.

"Each year we plan a three-day field exercise for cadets under the training program," explains Col G. Bednarchuk, senior instructor of the tactics chair at the Red Banner Order of Red Star Tashkent Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni V. I. Lenin. "Practical skills in march training are perfected here and the personnel's techniques and actions in the attack and on defense are practiced... And now observe."

Meanwhile Igor' Ganzha's platoon arrived at the attack position.

"Dig in!" comes the command.

The first year men hurry and are anxious. They peck away at the unyielding ground, wiping away drops of sweat.

The tanks appeared suddenly. For the first time in their lives the young soldiers had to enter into single combat with them.

Salvos of the tank guns rang out. As if assisting the defenders, sunlight struck like a powerful searchlight from behind the whimsical outlines of the Chatkal Range and the sunbeams began playing in the vision slits of the attacking tanks.

"Fire!" The platoon commander was first to send a burst at the nearest multi-ton target. And an antitank grenade already was flying beneath the tracks.

There was an explosion and the target was "hit," but it still continued to crawl stubbornly directly at the lieutenant's foxhole. It seemed it would cover the commander in another instant but he took cover in the foxhole and, when the heavy vehicle had passed over him, he sent a second grenade after it, aiming at the rear portion. This time the target was "destroyed"!

Tank driver-mechanic Komsomol member Salimdzhani Osmanov, who was simulating "enemy" actions, performed the assigned operational training mission expertly: Intricate driving precision is necessary in such matters. Following the commander's example, Komsomol members Sergey Lebedev, Andrey Kapustin and Andrey Sautkin blocked the path of the "enemy" tanks...

Then I recalled a diorama I had seen in the school museum. It was devoted to the exploit of Gds Capt Boris Ivanovskiy, an exploit performed 40 years ago in the battle for the Dnepr.

It was as if the photograph of the guardsman presented to me by his daughter came alive before my eyes and resurrected the story of eyewitnesses of the last fight by the courageous officer-Leninist.

He knocked out a fascist tank with a grenade in beating off a counterattack by the Hitlerites, but he himself was wounded. When an armored monster headed for the foxhole Party Member Ivanovskiy, clasping a cluster of grenades, decided to halt the enemy at the cost of his own life...

HSU Boris Andreyevich Ivanovskiy, a Namangan, is listed forever on the rolls of cadets in the 4th Company of the TVOKU [Tashkent Higher Combined-Arms Command School] imeni Lenin.

...Reconnaissance reported that "enemy" antitank weapons had been detected on the west slopes of the hill conditionally nicknamed "Camel's Hump."

Subunit commander I. Perederiy, a young party member, made the decision to attack from the move. At his command the infantry fighting vehicles managed to perform the mission in a matter of minutes with the concentrated fire of main guns and machineguns without reducing speed. Cadets Shilov, Churay, Muminov, Pospelov and others conducted fire accurately in this high-speed "combat."

The "enemy" is cunning. He employed toxic agents against the attackers, but this did not halt the offensive enthusiasm of the Lenin cadets. Subunit commanders gave the order to cross a sector of "contaminated" terrain in individual protective gear. Although it was the first time many soldiers had acted under difficult conditions--and beneath the rays of the burning sun and with full gear at that--all of them coped excellently with the assigned mission and crossed the "contaminated" zone in a short time period.

Breathing heavily, damp from sweat and dirty from the dust but satisfied with themselves, these lads performed decontamination of weapons and gear at the command of Officer V. Lapshin.

Dinner is especially tasty after such a physical load and cold water.

...And again into "combat." This time the cadets practiced actions on reconnaissance, learned to mine various "enemy" objects and facilities, and made assault crossings of water obstacles on improvised means.

Twilight fell. After moving to a given area the future officers assumed a defense. Squad positions had to be organized: Dig in, prepare a fire plan, arrange observation of the "enemy" and put out battle outposts...

...Although a soldier's sleep is brief and restless, it restores energy quickly. This is probably why, when observers Zimin and Sherov reported that the "enemy" had moved into the attack at 0524 hours, the alarm signal was not unexpected. They took their combat places in a matter of minutes and repulsed a furious attack by accurate fire from all kinds of weapons.

The squads commanded by junior sergeants Ismagilov and Gaganin functioned cohesively. Cadets Klemenkov and Chuprin demonstrated high combat qualities as they knocked out a "tank" by fire from rocket launchers at short range...

Col A. Korotnev, director of the tactical exercise, highly praised the bold actions of the Lenin cadets in summarizing results of the first "combat."

"The commanders and young officers--platoon and company commanders--demonstrated excellent military proficiency," noted Aleksandr Arkhipovich. Capt S. Chelyshev was commended and presented with a certificate for skilled actions of subunit personnel and precise control of "combat."

The cadets' field exercise--the first test of abilities of the future officer--ended with a forced march, the finale of which was a combat marching song.

6904

CSO: 1801/074

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

SOVIET AIR FORCE GENERALS DISCUSS AIR FORCES DAY

Colonel General of Aviation V. V. Reshetnikov

Moscow LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 21 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Col Gen Avn V. V. Reshetnikov, deputy commander in chief of the Air Forces, Hero of the Soviet Union: "The Fatherland's Reliable Shield"]

[Text] Soviet Air Forces Day, which was established 50 years ago by decree of the Council of People's Commissars, has become a traditional holiday of aviators and the entire Soviet people in our country. On this day the motherland honors the creators and builders of the modern aviation equipment, the military aviators, the Aeroflot workers, the DOSAAF pilot-sportsmen, and all those who, by their selfless labor, are strengthening the air fleet of the country of socialism.

The victory of the Great October opened a new stage in the development of Soviet aviation. Its creation and development are linked directly with the name of the founder and leader of the Soviet state, V. I. Lenin. To him belong the basic decisions on the organization of the Red Air Force in which he prophetically saw not only an important type of transportation and communication under conditions of peace, but also a powerful means for the defense of the revolutionary achievements.

The successful realization of the Lenin plan for building socialism and the creation of a firm industrial and scientific-technical base became the basis for the development of the Soviet Air Fleet and permitted our country to become a mighty air power in an historically short time.

The Air Forces made a large contribution to the attainment of the historic victory over the enemy in the years of the Great Patriotic War. Our pilots fought heroically with the hated enemy, boldly entered battle with the enemy's manyfold superior forces, and did not spare blood and life itself for the sake of victory.

The party and the Soviet government evaluated at their true worth the exploits of the aviators. For the successful accomplishment of the command's combat missions and the courage and valor displayed in this, more than 200,000 military aviators were awarded orders and medals, 2,420 aviators were awarded the title

of Hero of the Soviet Union, 65 men were awarded this title twice, and the celebrated aces A. I. Pokryshkin and I. N. Kozhedub--three times. Eight hundred ninety-seven formations and units were awarded orders of the USSR, 708 received honorable designations, and 228 were awarded the title of Guards.

Having gained the victory, under the leadership of the Communist Party the Soviet people accomplished a labor exploit in a short time--they achieved the rebirth of the country and its comprehensive flourishing. In the country, a developed socialist society has been built where high ideological conviction, political consciousness, friendship, and collectivism have become the standard of behavior of the Soviet people.

Concentrating their efforts on the accomplishment of two interconnected tasks--communist construction and the strengthening of peace--the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government constantly display concern for a further rise in the country's defensive capability and the strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces' defensive might. This concern also finds concrete expression in the growth of the Air Forces' combat might.

Contemporary Soviet aviation is a formidable combat force which is called upon for the successful accomplishment of any difficult and important missions in ensuring the security of the motherland and the countries of the socialist commonwealth.

The foundation of the Air Forces is now comprised of missile-carrying airplanes. They are equipped with contemporary armament, means for the detection of the enemy and fire control, and the latest navigation equipment. The aviation missiles of these aircraft, including those with a nuclear warhead, permit destroying enemy objectives without entering the zone of action of his air defense weapons.

New multipurpose aircraft with variable wing geometry and powerful vertical take-off and landing flight vehicles have been created. Military aviation can accomplish a broad range of missions in covering and supporting the ground troops and winning air supremacy. Many Soviet aircraft have no equal in the world for flight altitude, speed, and range. During recent years the speeds of combat aircraft increased 2-2.5-fold, and the "ceilings" of the supersonic airplanes increased to 30 kilometers or more.

Great changes also occurred in the aircraft fleet of military-transport aviation. The capability to transfer full-strength combined-arms units and large units by air appeared with the adoption of aircraft with a large lift capacity in the inventory.

New positions in the improvement of professional skill and in raising combat readiness were achieved by the leaders of socialist competition in the Air Forces--units and subunits where commanders and political officers are officers V. Vorob'yev, V. Ivanov, V. Rebrov, A. Tsar'kov, V. Malyshev, A. Derbenev, V. Vladimirov, and V. Filatov.

The high evaluation given to the Armed Forces in the documents of the 26th Party Congress and the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee inspires the

aviator-fighters to new successes in improving air training and combat readiness and in socialist competition for the quality and effective accomplishment of the missions assigned to the Air Forces in the present training year.

The Soviet servicemen, closely rallied around the Leninist Communist Party and boundlessly devoted to their people and in combat collaboration with the armies of the Warsaw Pact member nations, are vigilantly standing guard over the peace and are always ready to step forth for the defense of the socialist fatherland and to accomplish their patriotic and international duty with dignity and honor.

Colonel-General V. Skubilin

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Col Gen V. Skubilin, deputy commander in chief of Soviet Air Force: "Soviet Military Aviation"]

[Text] This year a traditional holiday--Air Forces Day--is being marked in our country for the 50th time on 21 August. Aviation, which began back in the last century with the first airplane in history which was built in life size by the Russian inventor A. F. Mozhayskiy, was soon transformed from a stylish novelty into an important form of transportation and a powerful means of armed conflict. Through the labors of several generations of scientists, designers, pilots, engineers, and technicians aircraft were continuously improved and ever newer types of them for various purposes were created.

The creation and development of the Soviet Air Fleet is linked directly with the name of V. I. Lenin and the activity of the Communist Party. And today the Soviet Union is an aviation power which possesses a modern civil air fleet and powerful military aviation.

Soviet military aviation increased quantitatively from year to year and the quality changed, also corresponding to the level of scientific and technical progress and the country's defense requirements. Our first Soviet-produced fighter, reconnaissance, and bomber airplanes appeared in the years 1924-1933. Then the airplane fleet of the Soviet Air Forces increased several fold and equalled numerically the air forces of the capitalist countries which threatened the USSR. In the 1930's new airplanes entered the inventory of the Red Army which demonstrated their high combat qualities in battles against the Japanese provocators in the Far East, and especially in the aerial battles of Soviet volunteer pilots with fascist aviation in Spain.

World War II which was begun in 1939 and the threat of an attack on the USSR which increased in connection with this required a further increase in the might of the Soviet Army. Everyone understood that the oncoming war would become a war of motors. New types of combat aircraft were created in 1939-1940: the YaK-1, MIG-3, and LAGG-3 fighters, the PE-2 and PE-8 bombers, and the IL-2 attack aircraft. In comparison with the airplanes of fascist Germany they had a higher style of aerodynamics and weight and more powerful small-arms and cannon as well as fundamentally new aircraft-rocket weapons--the RS. The IL-2 armored attack aircraft had no equal. All these airplanes had reserves for modernization which provided the opportunity to increase their combat capabilities in the course of the war.

When fascist Germany attacked the USSR, series production of the new combat aircraft and the reequipping of the Air Forces with them had only just begun. The surprise of the strike by German aviation and the superiority of its combat equipment (the main portion of the Soviet air regiments were still equipped with airplanes of obsolete designs) permitted her to seize air superiority.

Overcoming the economic difficulties which the country endured then, the Soviet aviation industry steadily increased the production of new airplanes which, already by the end of 1942, provided the capability to restore the might of the Soviet Air Forces. In the middle of 1943 the Soviet Air Forces won air superiority and held it until the complete victory over fascist Germany.

The force of the strikes by Soviet aviation against the German-fascist aggressors also increased from year to year. If 200-500 airplanes participated in the big operations of 1941, in 1943-1945 they were up to several thousand, and in the concluding Berlin operation--about 7,500 airplanes. During the time of World War II German aviation lost more than 100,000 airplanes, of them 77,000 on the Soviet-German front.

The victory of the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces over fascist Germany, unfortunately, did not benefit the imperialists. The entire postwar history irrefutably indicates that the aggressive forces of international and, first of all, American imperialism, in striving to assert their world domination, are forcing the arms race and nurturing perfidious plans against the USSR and other socialist states. In order to ensure its own defense and that of its allies, the Soviet Union was forced to undertake responsive measures, including those in the area of aviation.

At the beginning of the 1950's, the series production of airplanes equipped with Soviet jet engines was mastered. For this tremendous qualitative jump to become clear, I will refer to the following example. The prewar fighter had a motor with a power of approximately 1,000-2,000 hp. If we convert the contemporary airplane to this old measure of thrust, a figure on the order of 40,000-50,000 hp is obtained.

Progress in the development of Soviet aviation continued and is continuing. In the 1970's, aircraft of various modifications were created which we call third-generation aircraft. Among them are airplanes with variable wing geometry and vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. The speed of contemporary airplanes is 2 - 2.5 times the speed of sound, and the flight altitude is from dozens of meters to several dozen kilometers. Great successes have been attained in the building of transport aircraft and helicopters. There are all grounds to assume that in the 1980's and subsequent years the development of Soviet aviation will be marked by the next achievements in the creation of new models of aircraft.

Having risen to a qualitatively new stage, the Soviet Air Forces are now a powerful service of the Soviet Armed Forces. The basis of the Air Forces consists of missile-carrying aircraft. The aviation missiles of these airplanes permit destroying enemy objectives without entering the zone of action of his air defense weapons. With the arrival of airplanes with a large lift capability in the inventory of military-transport aviation, the capability appeared for the air shipment of full-strength combined-arms units and large units. Helicopter gunships can destroy enemy personnel and equipment on the battlefield and in its rear areas.

Today the Soviet Air Forces possess high maneuverability and the ability to penetrate into the depth of the enemy rear area and exert influence on his objectives, employ various means of destruction, and conduct electronic warfare. And all of this--under any weather conditions and at any time of the year and day.

Speaking at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Yu. V. Andropov assured in the name of the party and the people: "In the future, too, we will do everything necessary to ensure the security of our country and our friends and allies and we will raise the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces--a mighty factor in restraining the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction." In a single formation with the personnel of all the services of the Soviet Armed Forces and the armies of the Warsaw Pact member states, the men of the Air Forces are always ready to accomplish their international duty and step forth for the defense of socialist achievements.

Major General of Aviation Ye. A. Kabanov

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 21 Aug 83 p 4

[Article by Maj Gen Avn Ye. A. Kabanov, Member of Military Council, chief of Political Department, Air Forces, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District: "Guarding the Motherland's Borders"]

[Text] The military aviators of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District are marking their holiday--Soviet Air Forces Day--with new successes in combat and political training. Inspired by the labor achievements of the Soviet people in accomplishing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, they are persistently improving their skill and soldierly training and are diligently mastering the weapons and combat equipment entrusted to them, acquiring the skills for the skillful conduct of contemporary battle, and ensuring the reliable defense of the Soviet motherland's southern aerial borders.

The Air Forces, created on the order of V. I. Lenin for defense of the achievements of the Great October, have travelled a glorious heroic path.

Intensive work of the design offices of D. P. Grigorovich, N. N. Polikarpov, and A. N. Tupolev was initiated beginning in 1922 and three years later the aircraft plants began to produce airplanes and engines of Soviet design with high performance characteristics for that time.

On the eve of World War II, new high-speed fighters, heavy bombers, and attack aircraft appeared in the air units of the Red Army.

The rapid technical progress of Soviet aviation required the training of highly qualified aviation personnel.

The Soviet Air Forces acquired considerable experience in the period of combat operations against the Japanese aggressors in the region of Lake Khasan and the Khalkhin-Gol River.

Our aviation made a tremendous contribution to the victory of the Soviet people over fascist Germany. The Soviet aviators withstood the most difficult tests with honor.

During the years of the Great Patriotic War Soviet pilots accomplished approximately 3,125,000 combat sorties and inflicted great losses on the enemy in personnel and equipment. In air battles and on airfields alone, 57,000 German-fascist airplanes were destroyed.

In battles for the freedom and independence of our motherland Soviet pilots demonstrated many examples of boundless devotion to their people, genuine heroism, and high combat skill. For the successful accomplishment of the command's combat missions and for courage and valor which were displayed, more than 200,000 military aviators were awarded orders and medals, 2,420 pilots were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, 65 of them were awarded this title twice, and A. I. Pokryshkin and I. N. Kozhedub who are known to the entire world received it three times.

The Transcaucasus aviators also fought the hated enemy in a worthy manner. The district's air units passed through the crucible of war with victorious battles, crushing the hated enemy. An appreciable contribution to the destruction of the German fascist aggressors was made, for example, by the regiment in which officer V. Medyanik serves. During the years of the war the aviators destroyed hundreds of fascist airplanes and a tremendous quantity of other enemy equipment and personnel. The motherland evaluated their exploit highly. The regiment was awarded two orders and received an honorable designation. Pilots V. Semenov and D. Gudkov were awarded the lofty title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In the postwar years, aviation entered a new era--the era of jet equipment.

The party and the Soviet government devoted and are devoting great attention to the training of highly qualified personnel.

Today the winged fighters have received at their disposal first class aviation equipment which permits conducting effective combat operations under any conditions.

The contemporary military aviator is required to have not only profound knowledge, military skill, and excellent training. The motherland's winged defenders should possess lofty moral and spiritual qualities and political consciousness, have firm ideological tempering, and be steadfast and capable of withstanding great psychological and physical loads.

These qualities are generated in the process of the ideological-political and military indoctrination of the personnel.

Effective party work was and remains an important factor in the accomplishment of the tasks facing the aviators. The field of activity for political officers and party and Komsomol organizations of units and subunits is unlimited here.

Air commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations understand this excellently and are persistently putting into practice the decisions of the Communist Party.

Practice shows that in places where party political work is equal to the occasion, combat readiness is stronger and the level of the men's skill is higher. An example of this can be provided by the collective where the secretary of the squadron party bureau is Major B. Nazarov. Here difficult training-combat missions are accomplished successfully, organizational and methodological work is at the proper level, and the morale of the personnel is high. Just the fact that in the subunit 100 percent of the pilots have a first-class qualification can serve as an indicator of the aviators' soldierly maturity.

Other air collectives are also moving in the vanguard of the competitors. The men of the regiment which is the initiator of the socialist competition among our district's Air Force units successfully coped with plans for combat and political training in the winter training period. Now they are accomplishing training tasks, in so doing demonstrating remarkable moral-political and psychological qualities.

The conditions for the service and training of our district's aviators are special. Training flights and bombings take place over mountain terrain. Here special tactics and the flight personnel's special ability to accomplish the assigned mission in a rapidly changing situation are needed. It is with pride that we mention the names of pilot officers V. Rudkovskiy, O. Korovin, P. Rubak, and many others who showed themselves to be examples of training, discipline, and order.

Summer training is now in full swing. The majority of the pilots are successfully mastering the program of combat training. Their experience deserves universal attention.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government are tirelessly concerned about the further development of the Soviet Armed Forces. "In the future, too, we will do everything necessary to ensure the security of our country and that of our friends and allies and we will increase the combat might of the Soviet Armed Forces--a mighty factor in restraining the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction," said Comrade Yu. V. Andropov at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

Our party and government require that the men of the Armed Forces be in constant combat readiness and reliably guard the motherland's sacred borders. The military aviators of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District understand this excellently and are constantly struggling for a further rise in combat readiness, organization, and order.

6367
CSO: 1801/483

TOUGHER STANDARDS NEEDED FOR MILITARY PILOTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen Avn E. Tsokolayev, commander of air forces of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District, USSR honored combat pilot, titled "The Evaluation Must Educate : New Technique and Methods"]

[Text] During tactical flight training, Captain G. Zarva received the mission to destroy a ground target. The pilot opportunely took off, overcame antiaircraft defenses in a tactically competent manner and destroyed the "enemy" with the first attack. However, on returning to the airfield, he landed with excessive speed. Nonetheless, a score of excellent appeared in the captain's flight log: the score for firing results was entered as the score for the entire tactical flight.

The evaluation of mission accomplishment has several functions. It must, with a high degree of confidence, define aircrew skills, their level of mastery of the aircraft's combat capabilities, stimulate growth of aviators' skills and "signal" any existing shortcomings in a timely manner.

However, the existing system of assigning ratings does not always, if it can be so expressed, keep up with demands of the times; not completely objectively reflecting the airman's work on the ground or in the air.

In the daily flight log entry, the evaluation of piloting techniques is not entered--only tactical use training. Such an approach scarcely facilitates growth of professional skills. The incident with Captain G. Zarva, mentioned above, confirms this. As analysis of the errors he committed showed, during flight preparation he carefully worked out only his departure to the range, attack variations and methods of overcoming the antiaircraft defenses. He prepared for landing as if it were an unimportant element. But in fact, each aerial mission presupposes not only accomplishment of training for tactical use, but also many elements of piloting techniques and navigation which, like links of one chain, are tightly intertwined and require continuous ground preparation. Therefore, each flight, whether controlled or autonomous, for piloting techniques or tactical use, must be evaluated according to its elements with posting of the overall evaluation in the flight book by a four-point, and not two-point system.

The flight log is called the "mirror" of pilot training. And in order that this mirror does not appear, as they say, curved, in my view it is necessary to show in it all evaluations for accomplishment of the most important elements of each flight.

The combat and technical capabilities of modern systems only over the last 10-15 years have grown several-fold. This means that responsibility for the quality of aviators' combat training must continuously grow. It appears that the time has come to change the criteria for allowing pilots to perform live rocket launches and bombing. Here is why.

It must be confessed, sometimes a pilot carries out a flight for gun-camera firing, photo-bombing or "dummy" rocket launch, formally for the sake of filling in a square in the plan. Individual commanders regard such a flight as unimportant, do not consider a pilot's clearance for a live launch by its qualitative criteria and close their eyes to individual errors.

Experience shows, that a flight for an actual launch will be carried out more positively and with greater flying discipline if for each previous training sortie, a careful and qualified review is conducted, errors committed and tactical findings are analyzed in great detail, and objective monitoring data are used to the maximum extent in evaluating the quality of the flight.

It is impossible also, to not touch upon the problem of rating a pilot's operation of aircraft equipment, which is entered in the flight log in two variations after rated flights: "competent" or "incompetent." Under "incompetent" such a case is assumed when the pilot allowed a cause for an aerial incident. As a result, a paradoxical situation results. The pilot erred in operation of the aircraft's equipment, but if this occurs while not under evaluation, a positive rating is entered in his flight log. Naturally, it is not necessary here to speak of such a role evaluation. The situation can be corrected only if operation of aircraft equipment is rated for each flight.

The simulator proves to be an indispensable aid to aviators in flight preparation. As a rule, the pilot, having thoroughly worked out the assignment on the simulator without shortcuts shows high results in flight. The quality of training in many ways depends on who organizes it and how it evaluates the aviator's actions. In the aviation squadron commanded by Lt Col G. Sukhovilov, each sortie is worked out in the simulator under conditions as closely as possible approximating actual flight under the guidance of the flight commanders. In so doing, without fail, special circumstances of the flight are simulated. Here there is strict accounting for an error; an uncompromising evaluation of actions. There is a completely different result, a different relationship toward flights in the simulator, when pilots--especially young pilots--complete them without evaluation. It is not necessary to comment about the objectivity of the evaluation of the quality of mission accomplishment. This lack of control is occasionally automatically carried over to flight.

It would be desirable to dwell here for one moment more. In carrying out several exercises on one flight, each of them are evaluated separately. Let us suppose that the pilot received a low rating on overcoming anti-aircraft defense, but fired excellently at the range. The overall rating for the flight absolutely, in such a case, must be low: under actual conditions the pilot would not have reached the target. Therefore, this low rating also must be entered in the flight log. I believe it advisable to mention this situation in standards of flight training evaluations.

There is no doubt, the flight evaluation must always consider the smallest error in the pilot's preparation, be conclusive and not cause false rumors, or worse--insults. An accurate system of posting the rating is necessary. Many of our aviation commanders constantly keep that in mind. Officer A. Nitay, in particular, having been in the position of flight director, each time visually carefully observed takeoff of the next combat aircraft. Then, by instruments and the plan position indicator he evaluates as the pilot flies the flight route. At landing he follows by radar initially and then visually. After he receives the report on firing or bombing from the range, he makes the final evaluation, considering the quality of all elements of the flight including overcoming anti-aircraft defenses. If one of the pilots considers his rating to be too low, Nitay familiarizes the aviator with data from the monitoring-recording devices which he always has at hand. Having deductively proven the objectivity of the rating, he thereby enhances his educational role.

Unfortunately, there are still those among the circle of aviation commanders that consider the specific between-flight analysis an unimportant matter. With them the entire examination of a flight usually boils down to a well-known dialogue: "How was the flight?--"Normal." But what is concealed in this "normal"--a rating of five or three--one can only guess...

During a stressed flying shift, as happens, aviators depart on the next mission, not having waited for interpretation of their film. Delayed evaluations are of little use in improving aerial skills or developing competition because they have no effect on competitiveness in the accomplishment of planned exercises. Planning charts, during heavy flight activity, must be made up in such a way that the flight commander can manage to analyze the flight with the pilot according to data from the objective monitoring systems. Instructing the aircrew not only ensures flight safety but also simultaneously trains subordinates to analyze their actions.

The weight of the rating for a flight, its educational charge, in many ways depends on the personality of the officer-controller, his principles, exactingness and level of methodical training. Here, the role of the flight commander is especially important. He is the chief figure in educating young pilots, and therefore must be, as they say, a head above his subordinates in all respects, to be able not only to show accomplishment of any element, but also, in principle, competently analyze it and present the pilot with an objective evaluation. The flight commander, having become proficient in objective monitoring techniques, significantly widens the boundaries of his instructional work. He is able to follow the course of a pilot's training, for all practical purposes, continuously.

Not long ago, Senior Lieutenant O. Zaytsev completed a check flight around the airfield with a straight-in landing approach. He confidently took off, went out to the reference point, turned onto the landing course and descended, but over the far beacon he did not make the adjustment to the landing course in a timely manner. The instructor, Captain V. Borodin, had to intervene. Immediately after the flight, the flight commander explained the principle of the error, in detail, to his subordinate. The low rating that Senior Lieutenant Zaytsev received for this flight caused a feeling of bitterness in the young aviator: he must successfully complete even more complex missions. However, the arguments voiced by Captain V. Borodin were irrefutable. The analysis helped the young pilot to prepare responsibly for every flight assignment.

It is these flight commanders that are the true support of the regimental commander. As illustrations of their sense of principle, it is necessary to teach those skills to argue a rating to the rest. Even the pilots regard such instructors with great respect.

Occasionally, you encounter cases when the flight commander cannot "read" the film from the monitoring-recording devices by himself, for hours not glancing into the between-flight analysis room, and if he does look in, then it is only to write in the log: I looked at it and everything was normal. From gaps in knowledge it seems the analysis gets its beginning "in the eyepiece," a condescending attitude toward evaluation of flying missions, which in turn dampens the spirits of the pilots and lowers their activity in training.

I would like to say a few words about the work going on around evaluations. You see, to conduct an analysis, to evaluate a pilot's actions--this is only half of the matter. It is necessary to make sure that the pilot correctly perceives the evaluation of his work, draws the necessary conclusions and always knows which of his comrades is ahead, who is behind and what places his flight and squadron are in following the flying shift. Continuous publicity and comparison of training or work results greatly increase the effectiveness of competition.

The following must be noted. The quality of aircrew training in the piloting technique, tactical-use training and navigation for 1st and 2d class confirmation is done by a single evaluation--an examination. The requirements for the aircrew for class confirmation are significantly lower than those requirements laid down for awarding a grade. This circumstance, among others, contributes to the fact that 1st and 2d class military pilots and occasionally a military pilot-sniper, gradually lose their combat skills. Their ratings in the flight log, by their own momentum, become higher. It is correct to say that this extremely adversely affects pilot flight preparation and their combat skills. A similar formalism and gross oversimplification create the ground for eyewash and lower combat readiness of units and subunits.

The aircraft is a collective weapon. Many specialists prepare and maintain it. The rating for a flight, assigned to a pilot, is a rating of the work of the entire group. And this means that the approach to it must be exacting, principled and objective.

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

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VIEW ON ROLE OF WESTERN NAVIES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Capt 1st Rank B. Izmaylov: "Imperialism's 'Naval Big Stick'"]

[Text] The chronicle of world history does not record by whom and when it was first decided to use water means for military purposes. However, it is well known that beginning in ancient times aggressors always had wide recourse to naval force if they wanted to attack the enemy's coastal regions, seize his territory, or undermine maritime trade.

With the entry of imperialism into the world arena with its geopolitical ambitions, the navy has been transformed into one of the basic weapons for the enslavement of the peoples of entire continents, into a "naval big stick" with the aid of which numerous expansions and threats were carried out and the struggle was waged for the division and redivision of the world. Even today, the imperialists often put this "cudgel" into operation. It is well known that during postwar years the ruling circles of the United States and other NATO countries sent their ships and Marines more than 100 times to suppress the national-liberation movement and conduct aggressive wars and to participate in armed conflicts and military provocations.

We recall that the U.S. Navy, for example, was actively used in American imperialism's aggression against Korea, Lebanon, Panama, and Vietnam. With the aid of navies Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Portugal tried, although unsuccessfully, to preserve their colonial possessions. In evaluating the significance of naval forces in these bloody operations, a British journal has written: "Thanks to the Navy, we are the most inveterate aggressors the world has ever known."

The Anglo-Argentine conflict and Britain's achievement of its military goals in it basically by naval forces secured for the Navy the palm of "exclusiveness" among the other services of the armed forces in the implementation of adventurous military actions by the imperialist states. Here, Western political and military figures stress the flexibility and broad range of the fleet's capabilities--from "showing the flag" to direct use of its forces in combat operations.

In order to make maximum use of these features of the fleet under contemporary conditions in the implementation of their global plans, Pentagon and NATO

strategists believe that it is necessary, on the one hand, to build up its power constantly and, on the other, to provide the naval forces with a network of bases and strong points in the entire world ocean.

The U.S. Secretary of Defense, C. Weinberger, expressing the "day dream" of the American admiralty, declared that "the Navy is not the sphere in which the concepts of a balance of forces or parity have any meaning. We must possess naval superiority." Such statements are not simply declarations. They sum up the material base which is expressed in the adoption of vast programs for construction and the modernization of the Navy.

The United States is speeding up the creation of new nuclear submarines with "Trident" missiles which are a nuclear first-strike weapon. It is planned to bring the number of ships in the U.S. Navy to 600 combat units in the next few years. Among the biggest newly built ships are 3 nuclear aircraft carriers, 22 antisubmarine warfare [ASW] boats, an air defense cruiser, and 38 destroyers and frigates. The equipping of the fleet's aviation with F-18 "Hornet" airplanes, the fleet of which should comprise 1,366 units, has begun. The United States is spending 40 percent of its military budget on the Navy which possesses almost three-fourths of the nuclear potential of the American Armed Forces.

The build-up of naval strike forces in other NATO countries is also noticeable. Thus, in France it is planned to increase the number of missile-carrying nuclear submarines to 7 units and to put into operation 2 nuclear aircraft carriers, about 10 nuclear torpedo submarines, 8 destroyers, frigates, and corvettes, and 54 fighter-bombers which carry nuclear weapons; and in Italy--2 submarines, a helicopter carrier, and 6 frigates.

In an article, "The Lessons of the British Victory for the United States," the American journal U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT wrote that "the attacking side needs an assembly area for people and supplies in some proximity to the combat operations. The British use of Ascension Island in the Falkland conflict stresses the value of such American forward posts as Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean." Considering the "lessons" of this and other aggressive actions, U.S. and NATO staffs are adopting measures to strengthen and build up permanent and mobile naval bases. Thus, for example, the United States has assembled about 40 combat ships and more than 2,500 Marines in the Indian Ocean. It concluded agreements with Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Oman, Kenya, and other countries of the region which permit placing American air and naval forces on their territories and controlling vast regions of the Indian Ocean. Special significance is attached to the naval base at Diego Garcia which it is planned to use as the main transshipment base in case of aggressive combat operations in the Indian Ocean.

According to the words of Prime Minister M. Thatcher, Great Britain intends to keep a portion of its navy in the area of Oman "as long as necessary." In addition, since 1980 it has 4,000 servicemen in combat readiness for operations in this region. France constantly has 12 combat ships and more than 10,000 servicemen in the Indian Ocean. The Netherlands sends a detachment of its ships there every two years.

The Pacific Ocean occupies an important place in the strategic plans of the United States and other imperialist powers. The United States now has 12

naval bases located in South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. The grouping of combat ships assembled in this region numbers more than 140 units. Quite recently the modernized battleship "New Jersey" with "Tomahawk" cruise missiles on board appeared here. The Japanese fleet, which is being integrated more and more with U.S. naval forces and those of its allies, should be added to the American ships.

As regards the Atlantic Ocean, the NATO staffs have long ago considered it as their "internal sea." The main NATO naval bases are located along both shores of the North Atlantic. The sea armadas of imperialism are also dispatched from here for participation in their piratical operations.

The "NATO fire brigades on the seas and oceans" have great significance in the conduct of "'naval big stick' diplomacy." This is what the Western press calls the permanent NATO naval task forces which are called upon to demonstrate the readiness and resolve of the bloc's countries to "defend their collective interests" by force of arms. The permanent NATO naval task force in the Atlantic, for example, appeared time and again and "worked out missions" where events developed in a direction objectionable for the bloc. As the Western press reports, with the complication of the internal political situation in Poland at the end of 1980, this NATO force was brought to combat readiness and the ships replenished supplies in accordance with wartime tables of allowances and were in one of the British bases in immediate readiness to depart for sea. Similar actions are also undertaken by other forces. In particular ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet are near the shores of Lebanon and Libya for a provocative show of force. Now an armada of U.S. ships is drawing up in the region of Central America, with the use of which Washington is trying to force the peoples of the region to give up the struggle for social and national liberation and to impose its will on them.

The Pentagon and NATO "hawks," evidently forgetting the lessons of history, are also trying to threaten the Soviet Union with a "naval big stick." For example, the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, J. Lehman, stated openly: "If the United States will have 15 aircraft carriers, this will permit blockading the Russian fleet directly in its waters and launching a missile strike from the combat ships at targets located in the depth of its territory." Lehman echoes the commander of the British Navy, Admiral J. Fieldhouse; "In the next decade, the Soviet Union will be the only and chief potential enemy of Great Britain at sea. In the Falkland conflict the British seaman not only showed his strong fist to the Argentinians, but he also proved in practice that he is sufficiently prepared for war with communist aggressors."

The high-handed, adventuristic method for the use of U.S. and NATO naval forces in various regions of the world ocean and the plans for their employment for aggressive purposes against the USSR and the countries of the socialist commonwealth are determined to a considerable degree by the influence of the dangerous illusion that allegedly the countries of the North Atlantic Bloc possess sufficient superiority on the seas to conduct a policy of coarse interference and dictation.

As regards the position of the Soviet Union and its allies, it is widely known. The Warsaw Pact states threaten and intimidate no one. However, they are tirelessly concerned about the security of their borders, including the sea borders, and will never permit any superiority over themselves.

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